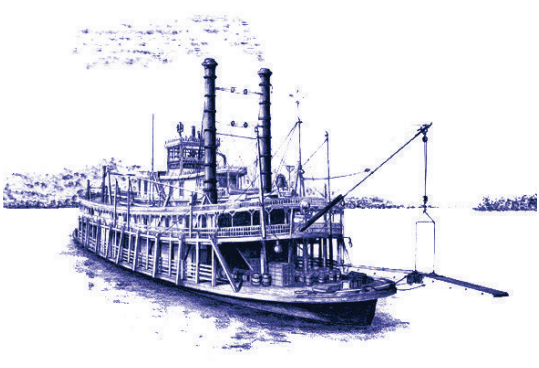






THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

Serving the Courier area since 1837

NEWSSTAND • \$1.75

Ribberfest retired for new event in 2026

BY BOB DEMAREE

The Ribberfest BBQ and Blues Festival will be replaced next year with a new independent event — Madison BBQ Party — after the Visit Madison Inc. board of directors voted at their meeting Monday to retire its role in producing Madison Ribberfest.

Madison BBQ Party will not be a VMI-organized event but instead its own separate non-profit being organized by Jeff Frazier and Steve Thomas, longtime Ribberfest volunteers. The new event has now been registered with the State of Indiana as a non-profit named “City of Madison BBQ Party Inc.”

The new festival — set to debut in August 2026 — will continue to feature the Kansas City Barbecue Society’s Indiana State Championship, the Backyard BBQ competition, the KidzQ, and a reimagined entertainment lineup.

Madison BBQ Party will take place the same traditional weekend as Ribberfest, ensuring continuity for fans and out-of-town guests. While Visit Madison will no longer oversee operations, it will work closely with Frazier and Thomas to ensure a smooth transition.

To help orient visitors and the

community, promotional materials for the new event will include the tagline: “A new event building on the legacy of Madison Ribberfest.” or something similar.

Ribberfest’s social media accounts will also transfer to the new organizers with updated branding and messaging, with the name “Ribberfest” being retired after a transitional period.

“This new event is a chance to carry forward the best of Ribberfest while embracing fresh ideas, as well as the foundation that started the event,” said Thomas. “We’re excited to preserve the heart of what people

loved — great barbecue, good times, and riverfront fun — while also growing into something new.”

Frazier said, “This event will be more attuned to a community celebration on our beautiful riverfront, and it will be developed and grown over time as new participants join in.”

The first Ribberfest in 2002 was spearheaded by Jeff Garrett as an effort to draw attention to Madison’s agricultural heritage, including the city’s history as a pork processing center in the mid-19th century. From 1847 through

SEE VMI/PAGE A2

VMI seeks funding increase in new contract with JCBT

BY BOB DEMAREE

The last meeting of the year for Jefferson County Board of Tourism (JCBT) provided a time to reflect on 2025 and look to the future.

“It really has been a great year. We have accomplished a lot of stuff in 2025,” said JCBT President Trevor Crafton, offering recognition at Monday’s JCBT meeting to Visit Madison Inc. (VMI) Executive Tourism Director Andrew Forrester and VMI Executive Marketing Director Sarah Prasil. “I personally appreciate everything you’re doing, Andrew, and everything you’re doing, Sarah. You guys are killing it. You really are.”

The praise came following a discussion at the meeting on VMI’s contract with JCBT for funding, which expires at the end of the year.

Even though the new year will begin without a contract, Forrester said, “We’re not going to stop our work so if it takes us a little bit into January to get the official one signed, and all the language finalized, that’s fine, but I will be working with you to be sure we get that taken care of.”

A 33-month contract was agreed upon in 2023 that ran from April 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2025 with a 4% increase annually. VMI received quarterly payments of \$81,250 in 2023, \$84,500 in 2024 and \$87,880 in 2025.

At VMI’s board of directors meeting earlier on Monday, Forrester expressed hope for more of an increase than 4% with the new contract. “We’re doing a lot more than we did last year so we need to see some additional allocation for operations,” he said.

VMI now staffs the Madison Comfort Station seven days each week, along with overseeing operations of two trolleys. He also wants an audit conducted of VMI finances since the last one was done in 2022.

With a 3% increase in January for the Jefferson County innkeeper’s tax (previously 5% and now 8%), there has also been an increase in revenue from that tax.

In November, \$183,277.26 was collected from the innkeeper’s tax. For 2025, there has been \$1,026,690.02 collected, already more than the \$771,384.92 that was collected in all of 2024.

VMI Board Chair Kelly Rodgers said at the VMI meeting that innkeeper’s tax collections are so far 37% up from last year. “I’m advocating for way more than 4%,” she said.

Forrester said much of the success with local tourism is because of the work that VMI has done. “A lot of the tourism and the attendance at events, and a lot of what we see wouldn’t happen if we weren’t here,” he said. “Obviously, people would still visit that want to come to Madison but I think a lot that what we see and the results in because of the work that we do.”

He told the JCBT board he appreciates the “support and partnership. It’s been a great year and we have even more exciting things for 2026.”

SEE JCBT/PAGE A2

Ringwald recognized with 2025 Jon Menke Award

BY BOB DEMAREE

The last Madison City Council meeting of 2025 included some end-of-year bookkeeping and announcement of the 2025 recipient of the Jon Menke Award for military service.

Mindy McGee, the city’s Director of Finance, presented the Council with year-end appropriations transfers and fund-to-fund transfers, and reported on encumbrances that will be made in paying next year from this year’s budget.

A total of \$130,389 in appropriation transfers were approved that includes \$26,025 to purchase road salt for streets and roadways that needed to be ordered. “We got hit by snow and needed salt,” said McGee, and with money available in this year’s budget, she wanted to get ahead and pay that, so it won’t have to be paid out of next year’s budget.

Fund-to-fund transfers totaling \$119,333 were also approved to cover any negative balances before the end of the year. She said the planning department brought in enough revenue in liens and other fees to cover its funds. Also,

McGee was able to reduce the transfer for Sunrise Golf Course, so the \$12,300 that’s earmarked there is “just in case. I think they are going to deposit what they need to cover the balance.”

McGee commended the city’s department heads for closely watching funds and appropriations. “They are learning more about how their budgets work, and watching those fund reports and



Bob Demaree

First Lieutenant Thomas J. Ringwald (center) was the recipient of this year's Jon Menke Award. He is pictured with Dan Menke (left), Jon Menke's father, and Mayor Bob Courtney.

appropriation reports. They are doing better and better about that, which makes our job easier, so I'm very happy with all our department heads,” noting special recognition to Sunrise golf pro Roger Gallatin for balancing the budget for the golf course. “To me, it’s monumental that Sunrise has covered its own bucket. I don’t know that’s ever happened. They’re making their own way.”

McGee also talked about encumbrances for items that will be paid next year with funds from this year’s budget. She said two HVAC systems last week needed to be replaced, resulting in two bills — one for \$8,100 and another for \$9,100. “We had the money in the appropriations this year so we’re going to go ahead and cover it, so we don’t have to use our building and structure money next year to do that” she said.

Also, there is Main Street work being done by All-Star Paving this year in which the bills won’t be received until January. “We’re encumbering the money to pay for those so it won’t affect our infrastructure dollars next year,”

SEE MENKE/PAGE A6

CHARLIE'S BEAT

Bringing poetry to the people

You know how there can be something going on right under your nose but you are unaware for some reason? And then you discover it and it’s just the coolest thing! That’s what happened to me when I interviewed Susan Mason Scott about her poetry. First let me tell you how I met her, and then I’ll tell you about the revelation.

Back in the warmer months I was walking downtown, and as I passed in front of Kim Nyberg’s house there was a woman sitting on the sidewalk writing out a poem in chalk. Always on the lookout



CHARLIE ROHLFLING

for a story idea I introduced myself and made arrangements for an interview. What unfolded is an engaging tale of heartbreak, discovery and expression.

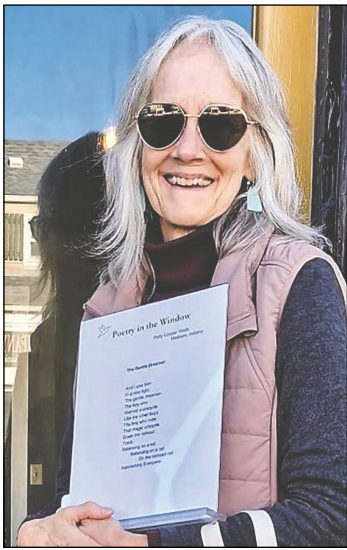
The first thing I asked her, not surprisingly, was how did she come to start writing poetry? “Well, 13 years ago my 19-year-old son was bicycling and was hit by a drunk driver and killed. You can imagine the grief and pain of something like that. So I started keeping a journal and writing down my feelings, as a way to help cope.

“That writing process eventually evolved into poems. And

as time went on, while I still wrote about the trauma of my son’s death, I also started to explore my thoughts and feelings about other subjects, about place and family and the natural world.

“My husband Andrew and I were in the Peace Corp and served in Africa, but we also lived in Italy and Portland and Denver and so many more places. We call it ‘inertia,’ that just keeps us rolling along. But a couple years ago Andrew’s company offered him a transfer to Madison. We didn’t know anything about the town, but that never stopped us before, so we

SEE POETRY/PAGE A6



Charlie Rohlfling

LOCAL POET SUSAN MASON SCOTT



3226

High Low

Details, Page A2

INSIDE

Puzzle Comics

B5

A4-5

Records Sports

A2

B1-B4, 6

DEATHS, A3

Frances Blackwood
Roland Newman
Michael Stafford

Leslie Caswell
Samuel Ralston Jr.
Roger Taylor

Matthew Christman
Cecil Robinson
Douglas Wheeler

Robert Ireland
Leland Scudder



8 51633 00100 7



Thank you for your trust, partnership, and commitment to education. May 2026 be full of joy, peace, community, and excitement for new learning!

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

Firefighters battle blaze in frigid conditions

BY BOB DEMAREE

A structure fire in sub-freezing temperatures Monday caused substantial damage to a house at 28 North Madison Avenue in Hanover. The fire began in a garage not attached to the house, but located less than 5 feet away, and spread to the house where Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Department investigator Cory Thomas said two adults and one juvenile were inside. He said the fire was reported at 9:21 a.m. after a passerby saw the garage on fire. “One of our members lives close by and was on scene in a minute,” said Thomas. “The garage was already fully involved.”. Facing a rapidly expanding fire, and no occupants evacuated from the home, the firefighter's immediate concern was to check for occupants and with the assistance of a Hanover police officer, entry was made into the house. “He was immediately concerned with the people living in the house not being evacuated,” said Thomas. “By the time they got everybody out of the house, the fire that is a

garage fire is now starting” to extend to the house. With temperatures below freezing, nearby hydrants were frozen, forcing firefighters to utilize dump tanks for water, a process that’s rarely needed in town where hydrants are typically accessible. “We were mildly handicapped by water supply you wouldn’t normally have when it comes to operating in town,” Thomas said. Madison Township Volunteer Fire Department had already been called to the scene but due to the need for tankers, both Deputy and Kent fire departments were also asked to assist. Meanwhile, Hanover Utility Department worked to thaw the hydrants, and firefighters were eventually able to utilize water from the hydrants. Void spaces in the construction of the house also made it difficult to spot all area where the fire was spreading. Thomas said there were times when firefighters had to “back out and find a solution to the problem,” due to concerns that the structure might collapse. Additionally, because of the cold, steam would develop, creating some

visual confusion over what was smoke and what was steam. Thomas said the fire was out by 11:30 a.m. but crews were on scene pulling hose and cleaning up the scene until 4 p.m. There was then more clean up work at the firehouse for several hours beyond that. In addition to Madison Township, Deputy and Kent fire departments, assistance was also provided by Madison Fire Department, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department, Hanover Police Department, Hanover Utility Department, Norton King’s Daughters’ EMT, Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency, Jefferson County Dispatch and the Red Cross. Thomas said the cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but it definitely started in the garage. There was also slight damage to a house next door to the north from siding that was warped by the intense heat.

COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO INCREASE COSTS FOR SERVICES
Madison Township Fire Chief

Robert Black announced an increase in charges for services provided by county volunteer fire companies as allowed under Indiana Code 36-8-12-16. The service increases, effective Jan. 1, impact calls by fire departments outside the Madison city limits and do not impact City of Madison Fire Department or fire runs in the Madison limits. The initial Response per fire engine, truck, apparatus, hazmat unit, or rescue unit is \$500, increased from \$250, while the fee for command vehicles is \$200 per response per vehicle. On-scene assistance per vehicle is \$400 per hour. On-scene assistance per command/control vehicle is \$200 per hour. The cost for expendable materials is reimbursement for the actual cost. The types of responses include structure fires, vehicle fires and all types of rescues, along with illegal burns and false alarms. Fire companies impacted include Canaan, Dupont-Lancaster Township, Deputy, Kent, Hanover Township, Madison Township, Milton Township and Rykers Ridge.

Big Oaks, Clifty calling on volunteers for annual bird count

BY THE COURIER STAFF

The Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Clifty Falls State Park will each participate in Audubon’s longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) that occurs Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 each season. At Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge at the former Jefferson Proving Ground, the count will take place Saturday, Dec. 20. At Clifty Falls State Park, the count will be on Saturday, Dec. 27. At Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge, volunteer birders and nature enthusiasts of all skill levels are needed to count birds. Sign up to count birds for a half-day (until noon, or noon to sunset) or all day. The event begins with a meet up at 8 am at the Big Oaks NWR office.

The Big Oaks Conservation Society, a not-for-profit refuge support group, will provide lunch for volunteers at the refuge office. Anyone interested in participating in the Big Oaks NWR count, can preregister with the refuge at 812-273-0783. Weather for the Christmas bird count can be variable, but warm and/or waterproof clothing is recommended. At Clifty Falls State Park, participants can opt for all day or just for an hour or two. Bring binoculars and field guides. Field participants will meet at the Clifty Inn. Feeder observers need only pre-register. Pre-registration is requested before Dec. 24 by contacting Kevin Carlson at 812-701-3993.

JCBT

FROM PAGE A1

Whitney Roberts, CASA executive director, noting they hoped for 300 cars and got 450 with \$27,000 raised that has provided funding for CASA to hire a part-time person to serve 15 children in Jefferson County. • Heard a report from Sue Livers on the exhibit “Unmasked: Anti-Lynching Art and Public Community Remembrance in Indiana” that JCBT had funded with \$1,950. The exhibit, which was at the Jefferson County History and Art Center last month, was originally scheduled for 14 days but was extended to 16 days. “People kept coming ... It was really a good turnout. I couldn’t have asked for better,” she said. • Heard a report from Josh Myers on the Chelsea Jubilee which received a \$3,000 grant that was used for milling the drive around the Saluda Township Park, where the festival is held annually on the first weekend in September.

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

Logdings.
Dec. 15, 2025
Cassandra Lynn Webster, 43, Madison, on a warrant for probation violation (marijuana possession). Bond \$500 cash.
Dec. 16, 2025
Brandon Eric Abbott, 30, Madison, for Battery-Aggravated, a Level 3 felony; Resisting a Law Enforcement and Felon Carrying a Handgun, both Level 5 felonies; Resisting Law Enforcement-2 Counts, Aggressive Driving, Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, and Driving While Suspended-Prior Suspension Within 10 Years, all Class A misdemeanors; Leaving the Scene of a Crash-Property Damage, a Class B misdemeanor; Reckless Driving, a Class C misdemeanor; and on an out of state hold for Kentucky. No bond.
Tyler Ray Hon, 33, Madison, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear (public intoxication). Bond \$250 cash.
Dec. 17, 2025
Devyn Taylor Michael Broadus, 30, Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear (criminal trspass). Bond \$250 cash.
Donny Ray Chandler, 34, Madison, for Domestic Battery, Strangulation, Criminal Confinement and Residential Entry, all Level 6 felonies. No bond.
Quinton Christopher Isenhower, 23, Dupont, Indiana, on a Jefferson County bench

warrant. Bond \$1,500 cash.
Edgar Rebollo Nonato, 48, Lexington, Indiana, for Operating a Vehicle Without Ever Obtaining a License, a Class C misdemeanor. Released on own recognizance. Held for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s-Department of Homeland Security. No bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

Sentencings
Dec. 16, 2025
Charles William Barnes, 64, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 20 days jail, fully executed, served, consecutive to balance of concurrent suspended sentence for criminal recklessness and leaving the scene of an accident, plus \$289 in fees and court costs.
Kenneth Glenn Ledbetter, 42, Madison, for Theft, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 510 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 322 days jail served plus \$389 in fees and court costs.
Margaret Christine Zearing, 45, Madison, for Resisting Law Enforcement, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 10 days jail served and 535 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$289.50 in fees and court costs.
Christopher Thomas

Skirvin, 49, Madison, for Leaving the Scene of an Accident, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to 365 supervised probation, plus \$389.50 in fees and court costs.
Dalton Dakota Rowlett, 27, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days at Jefferson County Jail, fully executed, served, consecutive to revocation of 100 days probation at the Jefferson County Jail and 280 days probation at Indiana Department of Correction on two prior convictions (public intoxication and criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, fully executed, plus \$289 in fees and court costs.
James Michael Haycraft, 40, Lexington, Indiana, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 910 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 20 days served and 890 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$989 in fees and court costs.
Charles William Barnes, 64, Madison, for Criminal Recklessness, a Level 6 felony, and Leaving the Scene of an Accident, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced 545 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony, with credit for 16 days jail served, and concurrent to 16 days jail on the misdemeanor, served, with 526 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$989 in

fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be determined in favor of Steve Lewis.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Jefferson County
Dec. 16, 2025
Everett Moreland and Maria Moreland to Gary Lauderbaugh, 1105 West Dawson Smith Road, Madison.
Steven Zornes to David E. Freeman Jr. and Anna M. Freeman, 5003 West 900 North, Dupont.
Daniel Chamberlain and Dewona Ray Chamberlain to Brian Marshall, 1100+, 1127+ and 1131 Walnut Street, Madison.
Thomas M. Jones and Deborah A. Jones (trustees) and Thomas M. Jones and Deborah A. Jones Living Revocable Trust to Lilla E. Miller, 121 Wray Street, Madison.
Dec. 17, 2025
Jonathon Simpson to James D. McKain, 138 Ohio Avenue, Hanover.
Mary E. Long to Mary E. Long and Long Family Trust, 9858 West Swan Road, Lexington.
Connie Dickmeyer to Nancy L. Cheatham, 3360 North Quail Drive, Madison.
Elberta Lone Willick to Anyalee V. Fellenz, 514 East Street, Madison.
Equity Properties LLC to Connie Dickmeyer, 1240 Wells Drive, Madison.

Festive firetruck tour with Santa to light up Hanover, Madison

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Santa Claus will greet residents of Madison and Hanover Saturday in a parade of fire trucks. On Saturday at 6 p.m., the city of Madison fire departments will take Santa Claus

around the city on a fire truck beginning at Madison Elks Lodge 524, 1251 West Main Street, heading east on Main Street and traveling streets in downtown Madison before eventually heading up Michigan Road to the hilltop where the route will follow various streets ending at Lowe’s

Home Improvement, 511 Ivy Tech Drive. In Hanover, Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Department will take Santa Claus through town and Hanover area subdivisions beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the tour beginning and ending at the fire department.

VMI

FROM PAGE A1

1854, Madison was a pork packing center of such importance that it was called the Porkopolis of the West. When promoter P.T. Barnum brought legendary Swedish singer Jenny Lind to Madison in 1851, she played in the largest building in Madison: a pork house. In January 2002, an announcement was made by Madison Area Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director Linda Lytle that Ribberfest would be held on the third weekend in August each year. The inaugural event on Aug. 16-17, 2002, had an estimated crowd of 7,500. VMI Executive Tourism Director Andrew Forrester

said Monday the end of Ribberfest is “somewhat a sad moment. I don’t want to gloss over that. That event has been a part of Visit Madison for over 20 years from its inception ... “As I have looked at the data on it the last few years, the financials, it needs a real refresh,” Forrester added. “It needs an infusion of cash and ideas; taking some of the things that really worked well, and that’s the barbecue side which was really working well, and that’s the side Jeff and Steve would like to focus on, and continue on, hoping maybe the music can make a more prominent comeback in future years ...We believe this is a win-win for the community and our visitors. We’re proud of what Ribberfest has been — and

we’re even more excited about what’s next.”

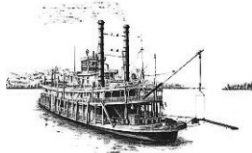
IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE VMI BOARD:

- Recognized Hannah Mahoney with a plaque for her six years on the board of directors. Mahoney is going off the board at the end of the year due to VMI bylaw term limits. She is being replaced by Carla Krebs as the Mayor’s appointment.
- Forrester said attendance at the Nights Before Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes increased with a tentative estimate of 3,000. He credited VMI’s marketing for the event, citing several initiatives that were executed well. “All of those things came together at the same time to really help push” the event, and draw people to it.

LOTTERIES

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto 2-24-36-43-45-46 (12/17). Estimated Jackpot: \$8.6 million. Next Drawing (12/20)
Cash Five: 6-13-16-23-44 (12/17)
Cash 4 Life: 3-32-33-36-59 CB: 3 (12/17)

KENTUCKY
Cash Ball: 12-24-32-33 CB: 9 (12/17)
Lucky For Life: 11-13-20-40-41 LB: 7 (12/17)
Megamillions: 20-24-46-59-65 MB: 7 (12/16). Next Jackpot: \$90 million. Next Drawing (12/19)
POWERBALL: 25-33-53-62-66 PB: 17, PP 4 (12/17). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$1.5 billion. Next Drawing (12/20)
POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 24-43-65-66-68 PB: 3 (12/17). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (12/20)



THE MADISON COURIER

WWW.MADISONCOURIER.COM

(USPS 325000)

Published two days a week on Tuesday and Friday.

Periodical postage paid at Madison, IN and additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to: The Madison Courier, 310 Courier Square, Madison, IN 47250
812-265-3641

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
Shelley Phoenix (812) 265-3641, press 3
Circulation Department: (812) 265-3641, press 1
Classified Ads/Legal Advertising (812) 265-3641, press 2

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
Mark Campbell, Editor (812) 265-3642
David Campbell, Sports Reporter (812) 265-3641, press 5
Bob Demaree, Reporter (812) 265-3644

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In-county print and digital: \$60 annually
Digital only: \$4 per month
Out of area: \$90 annually

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD. **ADVERTISE WITH US**

OBITUARIES

Michael Robert Stafford

Michael Robert Stafford, age 67, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Oct. 2, 1958, in Madison, IN. He was the loving son of the late David Stafford and Mary Kathryn Brinson Farone. He resided all of his life in Jefferson County, and was schooled there. He was blessed to raise a daughter, Kristin. He worked for a time in auto body repair with Bennett Motors and then with Craig Toyota. He retired from Linville Automotive after 10 years of service. He enjoyed arrowhead hunting, watching car races, especially NASCAR, working on, and restoring old cars. In his younger years he enjoyed fishing, and riding motorcycles. Michael died on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, at his home near Madison, IN.

Michael will be missed by his loving daughter, Kristin Stafford and her companion, Joe Breeck of Hanover, IN; his granddaughter, Jordyn Lanham; his brothers, Russell Neal Linville of Madison, IN, Mark Dennis Banks of Dupont, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death



by his his father, David Stafford, his mother, Mary Kathryn Brinson Farone, his sister in law, Kathrin Ann Linville,, and his nephews, Benjamin Dale Linville, and Clinton Neal Linville.

Graveside services will be conducted Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, at 11a.m., at the Ryker's Ridge New Cemetery on Rykers Ridge in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Rykers Ridge New Cemetery in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's charity of choice. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Roland Henson Newman

Roland Henson Newman, age 80, of Madison, IN, entered this life on April 19, 1945, in Chicago, IL. He was the loving son of the late Harry L. and Theresa Genus Newman. He was raised in Chicago and later in Indianapolis, graduating from Shortridge High School in 1964. He then graduated from Chicago Allied Institute of Technology and furthered his education at Indiana Central College. He was united in marriage to Thelma Jean Graham. This happy union of 47 years was blessed with son, Roland, Jr. and Julian and daughters, Michelle and Veronica. Roland had worked all over the world as a project engineer, working in China, France, and Germany. He began his career at Jarrett Engineering in Indianapolis, and later worked for the following companies: Delco Electric, Western Electric, P.R. Mallery, Kirby's Engineering LTD (England), One Union Carbide, Rolls Royce (Turbine Engine Allison) Boeing Aircraft. He resided in Indianapolis, for 47 years and Thelma Jean passed away on May 12, 2014. On March 25, 2017, he was united in marriage to Patricia Marie Taylor in Indianapolis. They attended St. Luke Methodist Church in Indianapolis. He had resided in Madison since 2017, and became a board member of the Eleutherian College Historic Site and served as project engineer for the Hoyt House restoration. He enjoyed collecting model cars and watches. He like to dress professionally and enjoyed traveling. He also liked following Formula One racing. Roland died on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at 1:49 p.m., at the Emergency Room of Norton King's Daughters' Hos-



pital in Madison, IN.

Roland will be missed by his loving wife, Patricia Marie Taylor Newman of Madison, IN; his loving sons, Roland Henson Newman, Jr. of Indianapolis, IN; Julian L. Newman and his wife, Brooke of Salt Lake City, UT; his loving daughters, Michelle Denise Newman of Indianapolis, IN; Veronica Ann Newman of Phoenix, AZ; his grandchildren, Elizabeth Newman, Erica Newman, Elijah Newman, and Elana Newman; his great-grandchild, Amira.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry R. L. Newman; Theresa Genus Newman; his loving wife of 47 years, Thelma Jean Graham Newman, died, May 12, 2014; and his half brother, Harry Newman, Jr.

Friends may call Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, from 4 - 6 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Interment will be private in the Floral Park Cemetery in Indianapolis, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Eleutherian College or the Hoyt House Restoration. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

FUNERALS

Matthew Ryan "Matt" Christman, 42, of Lexington, KY, and formerly of Switzerland County, IN, died Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, at the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington. A celebration of life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, IN, with inurnment to follow in the Grandview Memorial Gardens near Madison, IN, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Samuel Lewis "Sam" Ralston Jr., 87, of Dellroy, OH, and formerly of Scott's Ridge in Jefferson County, IN, died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, at Altercare Hartville in Hartville, OH. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. Funeral service is at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, IN, with interment in the Caledonia Cemetery near Moorefield, IN, with full

military rites by the Honor Guard of the Vevay American Legion Post 185 and the Vevay VFW Post 5396, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Roger Allen Taylor, 81, of Carrollton, KY, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at his home after a lengthy illness. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, with burial in the English Cemetery near Carrollton, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

Douglas Richard Wheeler, 76, of Bedford, KY, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at his home. He had served in the Kentucky National Guard. Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, with inurnment to follow in Bedford Cemetery there, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Robert Ellis 'Bob' Ireland , age 84, of Hanover, IN was born March 21, 1941, in Topeka, KS, the son of Orris R. and Harriet E. Brown Ireland. He grew up in the Wichita, KS, area. As a youth he was an Eagle Scout and 4-H woodworking champion for the state of Kansas. He earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics at Kansas State University where he was a member of FarmHouse social Fraternity. He completed his senior year at Kansas State, doing independent study, and research in India, and other Asian countries in a program that he, and one of his professors created. Following college, Bob became an early member of the U.S. Peace Corps and served for 20 months in the Dominican Republic.

Following his return from the Peace Corps, Bob enrolled again at Kansas State and earned a master's degree in agricultural economics. He then pursued a doctoral degree in counseling psychology at Kansas

Robert Ellis 'Bob' Ireland



University which he completed in 1972.

Bob married Carol Sappenfield while they were both graduate students at Kansas University. To their marriage were born James Shannon "JJ" and Brandi Lynn. The Ireland family moved to Hanover, in 1974, and Bob taught two years at Hanover College. Not being happy as a professor, he made a drastic career change and began doing building and home repairs in Jefferson County. He had a strong interest both in helping the elderly and in historic preservation, so his work emphasized there two areas. He, along with

several people from Hanover, worked hard to save the historic John Finley Crowe House from being torn down. The house was completely rehabilitated and earned a placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bob loved tennis and played several times a week. He was a member of the Hanover United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company and served as its secretary for 25 years. He served on the board of the Hanover Presbyterian Church Cemetery and was co-chair of the board for several years. His other memberships included the ACLU and Indiana Landmarks. Bob died on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, at 7:15 a.m., at his home in Hanover, IN.

Bob is survived by his wife, Grace Hildebrandt Ireland of Hanover, IN, to whom he married on June 6, 1982; by his son, James Ireland and his wife Michele of Hood River,

OR; by his daughter, Brandi Ireland of Nashville, IN; by his stepdaughter, Sonya Rosenthal Rousseau and her husband Nathan of Taos, New Mexico; by his grandchildren, Carter, Addison, Quinn, Roarke, and Malcolm.

He was preceded in death by his father, Orris R. Ireland, his mother, Harriet E. Brown Ireland, and his brother, James Ireland.

Memorial services will be held at the Hanover United Methodist Church, 220 East LaGrange Road in Hanover, IN, on Jan. 17, 2026, at 11 a.m., followed by a light lunch.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hanover United Methodist Church or to Interim Hospice. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Hanover, and Madison, or at the church. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Leland Ellsworth Scudder



Leland Ellsworth Scudder, age 95, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Sept. 3, 1930, in Switzerland County, IN, near Florence. He was raised and schooled in Switzerland County, IN. He was inducted into the United States Air Force on Sept. 11, 1950, in Indianapolis, IN. He rose to the rate of Staff Sergeant serving during the Korean War and was honorably discharged on Sept. 11, 1954, receiving the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He re-enlisted and served until being honorably discharged on Aug. 29, 1958, at Itazuke Air Base, Japan, receiving the Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasps with two loops and the Air Force Longevity

Service Award. He returned home and worked his early life in construction. He attended college in Japan. On Dec. 26, 1962, he was united in marriage to Fueko "Faye" Takeyama in Japan. This happy union of marriage was blessed with 58 years until her death on March 14, 2020. They settled in Dillsboro, Indiana and he worked for Arvin Industries for many years.

He later resided in Carrollton, and then in Madison. Leland died on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., at the River Terrace Health Campus in Madison, IN.

Leland will be missed by his sister, Bonnie Scudder Niles of Erlanger, KY; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edwin Stoops Scudder, his mother, Olive B. Slack Scudder, his daughter, Elizabeth Scudder, his wife, Fueka "Faye" Scudder, died March 14, 2020, his brothers, Reynold "Renny" Scudder, Earl Edwin Scudder, Carroll Norman Scudder, John Frederick Scudder, and his sister, Elizabeth Scudder Cheek.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, at 11 a.m., at the

Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, from 10 - 11 a.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

A final salute with military honors will be provided by the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Cecil Vernon 'Butch' Robinson

Cecil Vernon 'Butch' Robinson, age 79, of East Enterprise, IN, formerly of Madison, entered this life on Dec. 31, 1945, in Cincinnati, OH. He was the loving son of the late Garvey Vernon Robinson and Lorraine Scudder Robinson Weber. Butch died on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at 6:15 p.m, at his home in East Enterprise, IN.

Butch will be missed by his loving son, Vernon John Robinson of East Enterprise, IN; his step daughters, Billy Kiny of San Antonio, TX, Jody Kiny of Minneapolis, MN;

his grandchildren, Michael, Kaylan, Cassandra, and Kyla; 5-great grandchildren; his brothers, Kyle Robinson of Vevay, IN, Stanley Robinson of Vevay, IN, Terry Michael Weber of Owensboro, KY; his sisters, Patty Weber Robertson of Dumfries, VA, Cheryl Stevens and her husband, Jim of Bedford, KY; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Garvey Vernon Robinson, his mother, Lorraine Scudder Robinson Weber, his wife

of five years, Judy Kay Kiny Robinson, died Dec. 18, 1982, his brothers, Perry Robinson and Harold Vernon Robinson.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, December 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., by Pastor Rod Asher at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre,

Leslie Wayne Caswell Jr.

Leslie Wayne Caswell Jr., age 64, of Chelsea, IN, entered this life on June 3, 1961, at Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville, IN. He was the loving son of the late Leslie Wayne Sr. and Mary Ruth Sipe Caswell. Leslie died on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at 7:40 a.m., at the Emergency Room of Norton Scott Memorial Hospital in Scottsburg, IN.

Leslie will be missed by his loving daughter, Lesley Anne Caswell of Madison, IN; his loving son, Cody

Joe Caswell of Marysville, IN; his step daughter, Ashley Sauter of Marysville, IN; his step son, Scott Barnes of Louisville, KY; his close cousins, Diana Luckett and Gary Caswell; his grandchildren, Eli Caswell, Marlaabee Anne Moderau, Holdem Caswell, Camdon Joe Miller, and Sophie Lynn Caswell; several step grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leslie Wayne Caswell, Sr., his mother, Mary Ruth Sipe Caswell, his son, Dustin

Wayne Caswell, Aug 11, 2023, his grandparents, H. R. "Ted" and Mae Sipe, and his uncle, Pete Caswell.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., by Brother Dan Corbin at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre - Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover, IN.

Interment will follow at a later date in the New Bethel Cemetery near Chelsea, IN.

Friends may visit Mon-

day, Dec. 22, 2025, from 2 - 4 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre - Hanover Chapel, 278 East Main Street in Hanover, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leslie Caswell Remembrance Fund to help with funeral expenses.

Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Hanover, and Madison. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Frances L. Little Blackwood

Frances L. Little Blackwood, age 80, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Jan. 25, 1945, in Magnet, IN. She was the loving daughter of the late Robert Henry and Vivian Fanny Etienne Little. Frances died on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at 1:58 p.m., at the Norton King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, IN.

Frances will be missed

by her loving sisters, Carol Crays of Loogootee, IN, Betty Gabbard of Greensburg, IN, Linda Wenning of Madison, IN, Monica Steidinger and her husband, David of Columbus, IN; her brothers, Paul Little of Bloomington, IN, Jimmy Little and his wife Sandy of Bloomington, IN, Dan Little and his wife Christine of Batesville, IN; sev-

eral nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Henry Little, her mother, Vivian Fanny Etienne Little, her brothers, Basil Little and Joe Little, her sisters, Addie Enneking, Mary Little, Julie Little, and Denise Daro.

A memorial Mass will be held in the spring. Interment will follow in

the St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery in Leopold, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



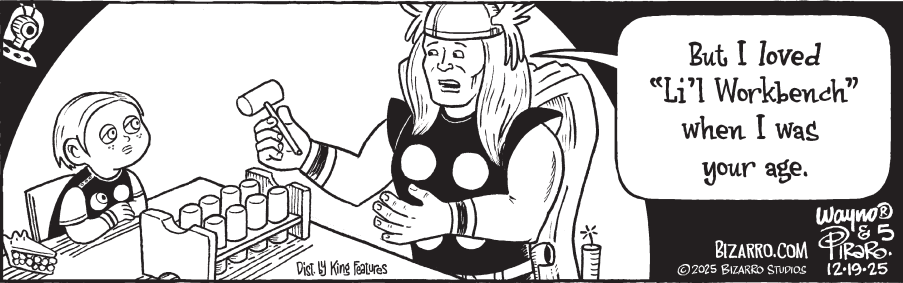
DENNIS THE MENACE



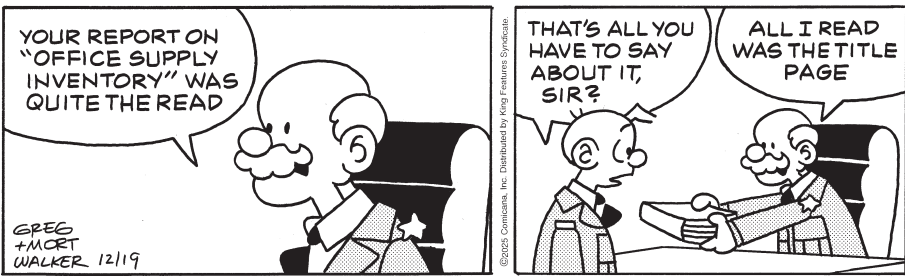
ARCTIC CIRCLE



BIZARRO



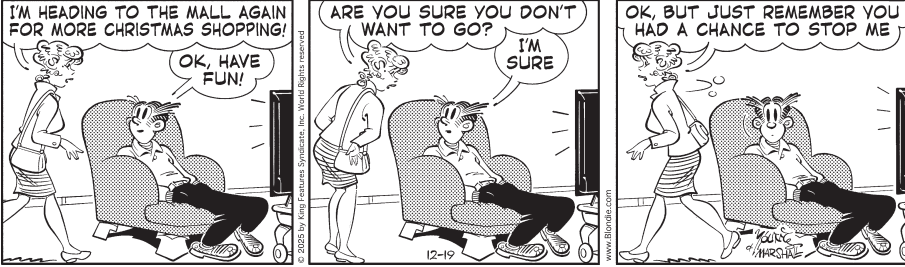
BEETLE BAILEY



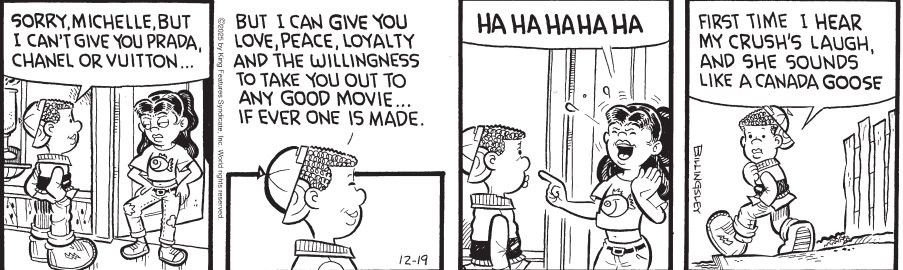
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



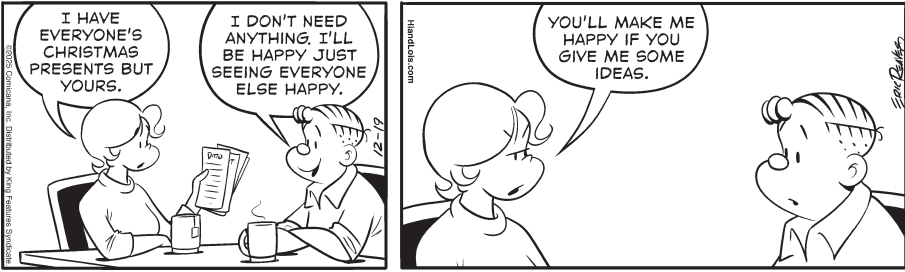
BLONDIE



CURTIS



HI & LOIS



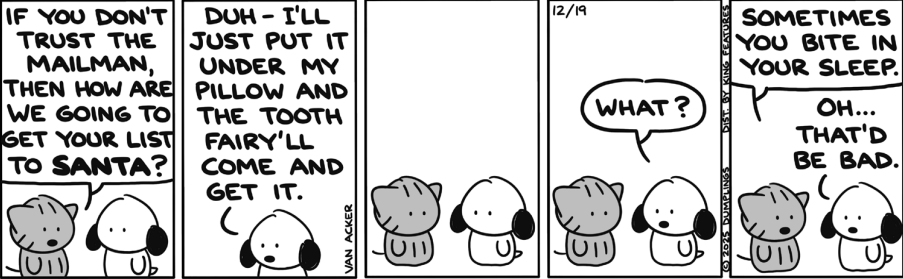
PARDON MY PLANET



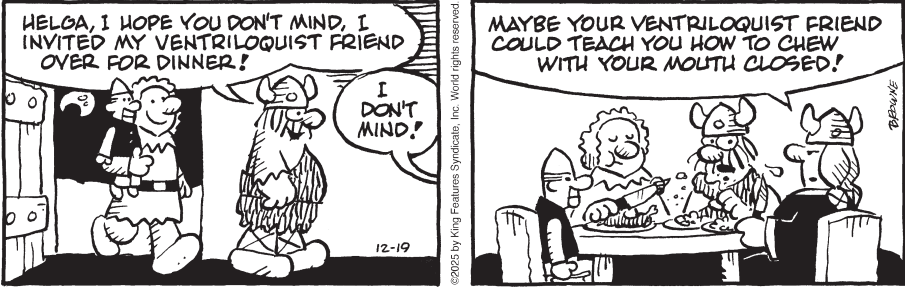
ZITS



DUMPLINGS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



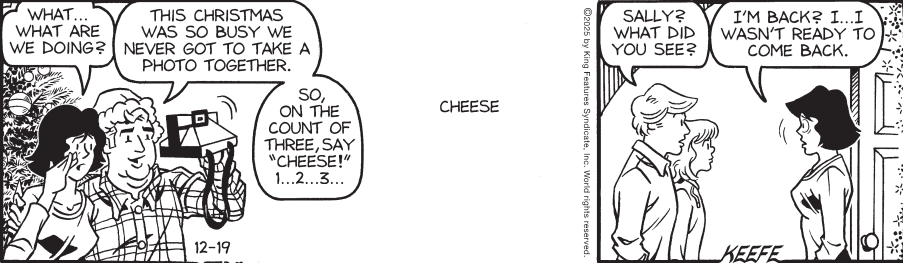
SIX CHIX



BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



SALLY FORTH



DUSTIN



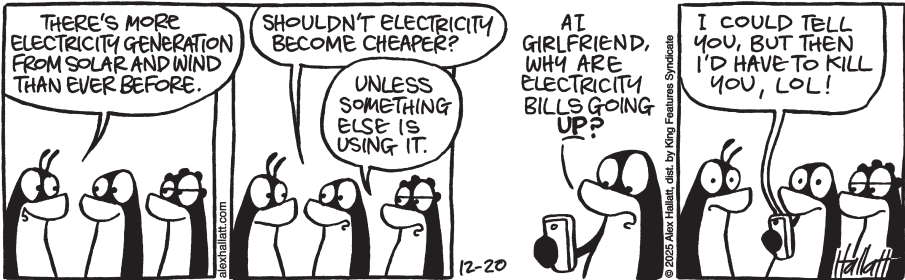
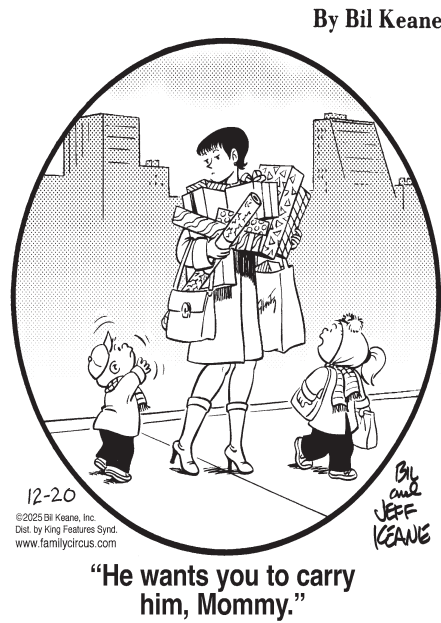
MUTTS



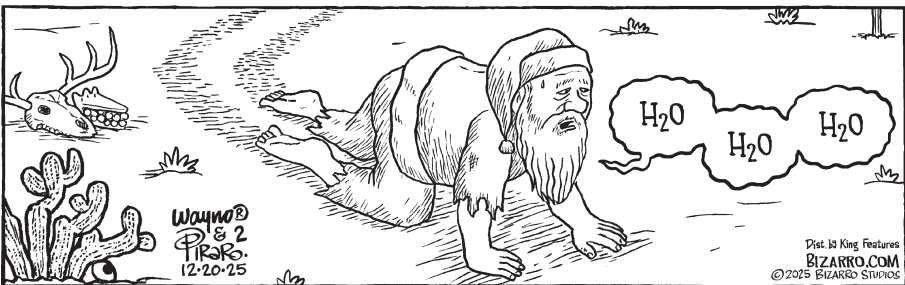
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

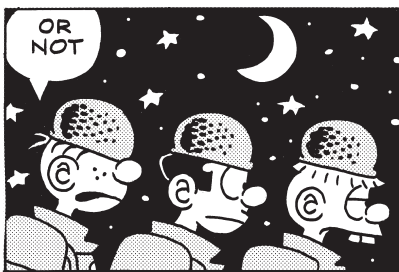
ARCTIC CIRCLE



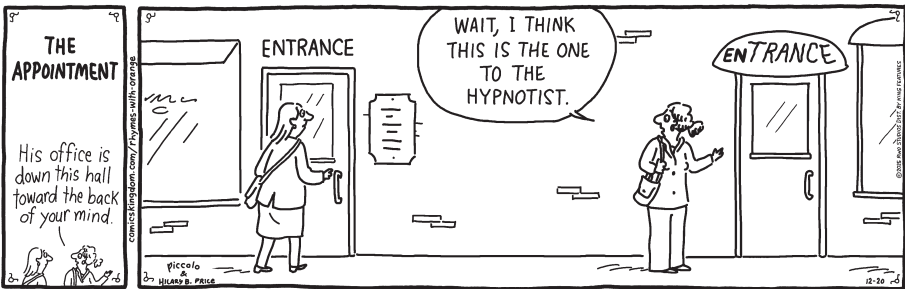
BIZARRO



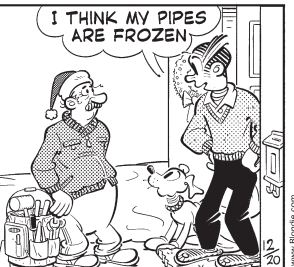
BEETLE BAILEY



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



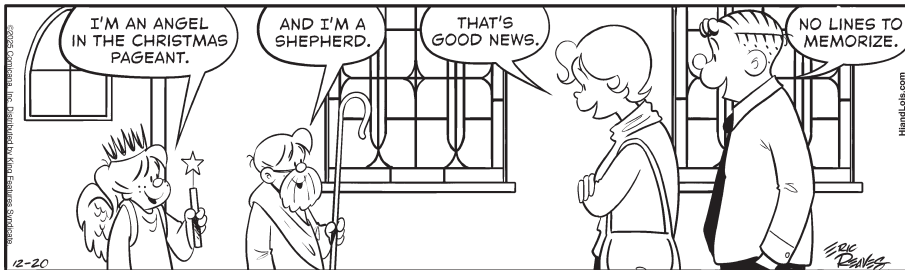
BLONDIE



CURTIS



HI & LOIS



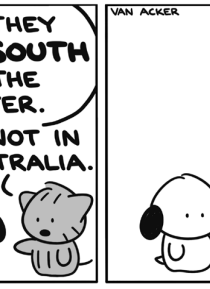
PARDON MY PLANET



ZITS



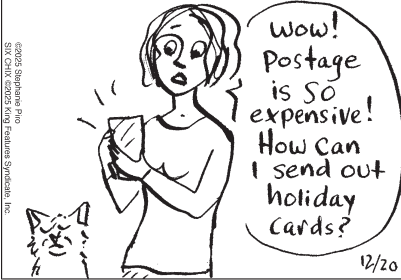
DUMPLINGS



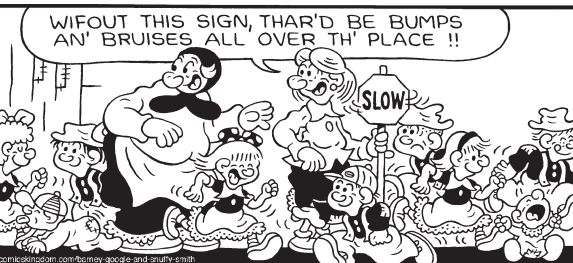
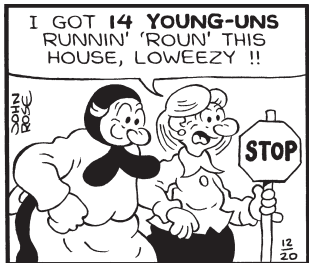
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



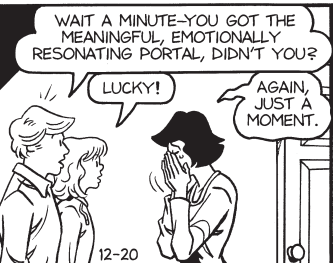
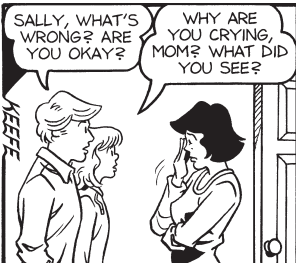
SIX CHIX



BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



SALLY FORTH



DUSTIN



MUTTS



POETRY

FROM PAGE A1

bought a place downtown and started this chapter of our adventure.

“As luck would have it, Madison is an amazing place, and the art and poetry scene is very vibrant and active. Patty Cooper Wells has been an inspiration and impetus for a lot of poetry readings and events, and it’s gotten me involved with many of the other artsy folks like Kim Nyberg and Jane Vonderheide. I’ve actually been the featured poet twice at the House of Jane poetry readings.

“I’ve also gotten involved in a thing we are calling ‘Poetry in the Window,’ which has been very exciting and rewarding.”

Which brings me to the revelation I mentioned at the beginning of this story. Apparently, unknown to me, there are poems (written by local poets) displayed in shop windows all over downtown! I’ve been walking past them for months I guess and never noticed.

“It’s a concept I saw out in Denver when we lived there,” explains Susan. “You get local writers to submit poems, then you display them in shop windows for all to read and enjoy. Right now we have poems at House of Jane, Red Roaster, Cocoa Safari, Galena Garlic, Growing Minds, Analog Coffee, The Attic, The SPOT and Madison Main Street offices.

“They are printed two-sided, so you can read them from the sidewalk or inside the store. They are one-pagers mostly, so it only takes a minute to

read. And if I may, I want to take a moment to address the reluctance some people have about reading poetry. People will often say it’s hard to read or understand. They get anxious if they can’t tell exactly what the writer was trying to express.

“But here’s the thing about poetry. Like any art form, poetry can be literal or it can be more abstract. The thing to do is just read it, let it flow over you, and soak in the feeling it gives you, whether you fully understand it or not. Poetry can have a kind of sonic beauty, where the sounds of the words are just as important as the literal meaning. If you just read it for the beauty, for the sound, you’ll be rewarded for the effort, I assure you.”

Which is exactly what I did after we concluded our interview at Analog Coffee. I walked right next door to the window of Madison Main Street and read the most evocative short poem by local poet Natalie Cox. What a treat! And to think there are so many more gems to discover in windows all up and down Main Street in Madison.

HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

This Friday you can enjoy the most delightful little live music pub crawl if you are so inclined, all within about a two block walk and all with no cover charge. There’s music at Off Broadway Taproom, one of my favorite cozy venues, jazz at Vintage Lanes, awesome classic rock at Rivertown Grill, and karaoke at two locations, Mad Paddle and Tiki LIVE (plus karaoke on the hilltop at Tailgators if you are up that way). Saturday

you can do it all again, with live bands at three spots and karaoke at two. You’d think with the colder weather and getting so close to the holidays that the music scene might quiet down a bit, but that really never happens in Indiana’s Music City. When we say “Live Music Every Weekend” we mean just that, 52 weeks a year!

Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd anywhere local live music is happening.

MUSIC EVENTS SCHEDULE
Friday, December 19
Off Broadway Taproom – Jimmy Danny & Kerry
Mad Paddle Brewstillery – DJ Vista (7 p.m.)
Vintage Lanes – Jazz (7-9 p.m.)
TailGators – Karaoke with DJ Scratchy (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Rivertown Grill – Vaguely Familiar (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Tiki LIVE – L&L Karaoke (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Am. Legion – Crossfire (8 p.m.-Midnight)
St. Michaels – Harp Twins (SOLD OUT!)
Saturday, December 20
Central Hotel – Jimmy Danny & Kerry
Mad Paddle Vaguely Familiar – (8 p.m.)
TailGators – Karaoke with DJ Scratchy (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Rivertown Grill – Rockin’ Cowboys (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Tiki LIVE! – L&L Karaoke (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)
Sunday, December 21
The Drake – Joe & Deano
Vintage Lanes – Stan Attenberger (6-8 p.m.)

CFMJC gets nation's highest standard in philanthropy

BY SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

The Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County Inc. (CFMJC) recently received accreditation with the nation’s highest standard for philanthropic excellence. Community Foundations National Standards® establish legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere.

The Community Foundations National Standards® program is a rigorous, comprehensive process that requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. Receiving accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates CFMJC demonstrates a commitment to transparency, quality, integrity, and accountability as it carries out its mission. With over 500 community foundations already accredited nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

MENKE

FROM PAGE A1

she said.

In other business, the 2025 Jon Menke Award was presented to First Lieutenant Thomas J. Ringwald, of Madison, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Over two years of combat service with the First Cavalry Division along the Cambodian border, Lt. Ringwald served as an Infantry Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He led search-and-destroy missions in company-sized units through jungle terrain and assumed command leadership.

He serves as a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the First Cavalry Division Association. He has served the Military Order of the Purple Heart as chapter commander and adjutant for more than 10 years, as Indiana State Commander and as Senior Vice Commander.

Mayor Bob Courtney praised Ringwald for his accomplishments and dedication to the community, telling him he “embodies the spirit of the award.”

The Jon Menke Award for Military Service is named in honor and recognition of the 22-year-old Madison native who died on Aug. 4, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, while serving in the U.S. Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Bob Demaree

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney (left) presents Thomas J. Ringwald of Madison with the 2025 Jon Menke Award at Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

JON MENKE AWARD WINNERS			
CITY OF MADISON (Award first given in 2013) Year Recipient			
2025	Thomas J. Ringwald	2018	Dale Ray Crafton
2024	Norbert Anthony	2017	Bill McCubbin
“Tony” Steinhardt Jr.		2016	Clyde James
2023	Richard “Dick” Jones	2015	Charlie Humphrey, Maurice Miller, Roy
2022	Printis Shelton		Stewart and
2021	Donald Joe King		George Wall
2020	Don & Mary Bullock	2014	Nate Adams
2019	Arthur Martin	2013	Adam Guzman

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Courtney gave an update on the city’s remaining American Rescue Plan funds, noting all funds had to be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. He said there remains \$41,000 for a Crooked Creek flood mitigation master plan and \$75,000 for an emergency watercraft that’s due to be delivered in early 2027.
- Approved renewal of a liquor license for River Oak Chophouse.

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD.

ADVERTISE WITH US

Catch This!

You always score when you subscribe!

THE MADISON COURIER

Inspiring And Informative Local News
About Your Family, Your Friends, And Your Community

1 Year Subscription for \$40.00

All Access Includes The Madison Courier Print Edition & 24/7 @ madisoncourier.com

Don't Delay - Order Today! Local delivery area only.
Offer Expires February 7th, 2026!

YOUR BILLING INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ HOME/PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CELL PHONE _____

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD # _____ CVV# _____

EXPIRES (MM/YY) _____ (Last 3 digits on back of card)

2 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!

- CALL 812-265-3641
- CLIP & MAIL P.O. Box 1480 Owensboro, KY 42302

All information and payment required to receive this special non-refundable offer. Offer only available to new subscribers in our local delivery area who have not had a subscription in the last 3 months. If you respond to this offer but do not qualify for introductory pricing, the expiration date will be prorated to match the payment to your current rate. Your subscription includes 24/7 digital access to all content available online. Your subscription expiration stop is automatic after a 28-day grace period. All rates include KY sales tax, where applicable. Yes, I authorize The Madison Courier to instruct my credit/debit card company to debit my credit/debit card account as I have requested above. Hurry! Offer expires February 7th, 2026.

Use TOD & POD Designations to Bypass Probate Court



Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad Retirement Planning/Wealth Management

Use TOD & POD Designations to Bypass Probate Court

Avoiding probate-the lengthy, public, and often costly court process for settling an estate-is a top priority for modern estate planning. Fortunately, you can successfully bypass probate on many key assets by using beneficiary designations, specifically the Transfer on Death (TOD) and Payable on Death (POD) forms.

1. Transfer on Death (TOD) for Investment Assets

The TOD designation is the standard, simple method for transferring investment accounts and specific securities directly to a named heir upon your death.

What it Covers:

The most common designation is the Uniform Transfer on Death Securities Registration. You can use this to designate a beneficiary on:

- Brokerage Accounts: Including retirement accounts (though retirement accounts use a separate beneficiary form, they function similarly by bypassing probate).
- Individual Stocks and Bonds: Both in certificate form or, more commonly today, in electronic form.
- Mutual Funds and ETFs.

How it Works:

You fill out a simple TOD form provided by your brokerage firm, bank, or transfer agent, naming the person or entity you wish to inherit the assets.

During your lifetime, you maintain 100% ownership and control. You can trade, sell, spend, and change the beneficiary at any time without their consent.

Upon your death, the designated beneficiary simply presents the death certificate and proof of identity to the institution. The asset is then retitled directly in their name, usually within days or weeks, completely bypassing probate court.

2. TOD Deeds for Real Estate and Vehicles

The TOD concept has expanded well beyond just financial accounts to cover major physical assets. This is one of the most powerful probate-avoidance tools available today.

Expansion to Real Estate:

Many states (now around 30) have adopted Transfer on Death Deeds (also known as Beneficiary Deeds).

This legal document allows you to name a beneficiary for your primary residence or other real property.

Like the investment designation, you maintain full control of the property while alive.

Upon your death, the property automatically transfers to the beneficiary without requiring probate. This is a massive time and cost saver for the most valuable asset in many estates.

Other Assets:

A growing number of states also allow the use of TOD registrations for titles of assets like automobiles, boats, and motor homes, making the transfer upon death quick and easy.

3. Payable on Death (POD) for Bank Accounts

The Payable-on-Death (POD) bank account is the simplest way to ensure cash savings avoid probate.

How it Works:

You complete a simple POD form provided by your bank or credit union, naming a beneficiary for any checking or savings account.

The person you name has no rights to the funds while you are alive. You retain full control to spend the money, close the account, or change the beneficiary.

Upon your death, the beneficiary provides the bank with a death certificate and identification, and the bank releases the funds directly to them.

The Bottom Line for Today's Planner

In the current high-cost legal environment, utilizing TOD and POD designations is essential for modern, low-cost estate planning. These forms are: Simple: They require minimal paperwork and no attorney fees to set up. Effective: They ensure a smooth, private, and rapid transfer of assets to your beneficiaries. Revocable: They give you complete flexibility to change your mind throughout your lifetime.

Note: The laws governing TOD Deeds and other assets vary significantly by state. Always consult with a qualified estate planning attorney or financial advisor to confirm the specific laws in your jurisdiction and discuss potential tax implications.

Stephen Dybwad, a long-time Hoosier resident, is a member of Syndicated Columnists, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

Kasper Insurance
220 Clifty Drive
Madison, IN 47250
Telephone 812-273-1187.
Stephen Dybwad (annuity.com)

Sports

Madison's Canida to swim at Butler

BY JORDAN BEAR

Not many student-athletes get a chance to become a Division I athlete, and even fewer get a chance to be a DI athlete at the school they've always wanted to attend. On Tuesday, Madison senior Lilly Canida did just that when she signed her Letter of Intent to continue her swimming career at Butler University.

Canida signed her letter just three days after it was announced that she had won the Lilly Memorial Scholarship for Jefferson County, ensuring that she will receive a full ride scholarship to any Indiana college or university and capping a terrific week.

"I'm so excited. Butler is incredible and I'm so excited to be a part of their family," Canida said. "To go to a place that's a great place to get an education and continue my swimming career, I'm so excited and I can't wait to get started."

There's no doubt that Canida has become one of the all-time greats in the history of the Madison swim program. A prodigy in junior high, the 6-foot senior immediately made an impact her freshman year by making her first trip the state finals.

Although at the time she thought volleyball would be her future, two more trips to the state finals and continued success in the pool

soon changed her mind. Once she visited Butler last year, she knew immediately where she wanted to be.

"Butler was the first place I visited and I loved it. I told my parents I wanted to go there. But they told me I need to look at some other places first," Canida laughed. "So I visited a few other schools and every time I kept going back to Butler and said it wasn't better and finally I just knew Butler was for me. Plus the fact that I get to be a part of the swim team, I'm so excited."

First year Madison swim coach Kirsten Johnson said it isn't just



David Campbell

Madison's Lilly Canida smiles after the Cubs won the 400 freestyle relay during the IHSAA Sectional at Floyd Central on Saturday, Feb. 8. Canida signed on Tuesday to swim at Butler University.

SEE CANIDA/PAGE B4

North Decatur rallies late to stun Madison in OT 69-61

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

GREENSBURG — Madison's youth surfaced once again as the Cubs failed to take care of business down the stretch in a 69-61 overtime boys basketball loss at North Decatur on Tuesday.

The Cubs, still seeking their first win of the season, held a seven-point lead (52-45) with just under five minutes left in regulation — and led by four with 45 seconds to go — but couldn't hold on for the win. North Decatur's Logan O'Dell hit a basket with three seconds left to send the game into overtime and the Chargers dominated the extra session to claim the win.



David Campbell

Madison's Braysen Russell (3, with ball) sprints away from North Decatur's Henry Kinker (3) and Charlie Palmer during Tuesday's game at North Decatur.

after three quarters.

A Dayton Bolton layup with 4:54 to play in regulation put Madison ahead 52-45 but the Cubs faltered in the stretch. A combination of Madison turnovers, poor shots and decisions, and big-time shots by North Decatur pulled the Chargers back into the game.

Gavin Barnes, another Cub freshman, hit a free throw with 45 seconds to go to stake Madison to a 58-54 lead but North Decatur's Matthew Fields answered with a 3-pointer to close the gap to one with 19 seconds left. The Chargers then fouled and got what they needed when Madison's Keevan Malone hit just one of two free throws to keep the lead at two.

North Decatur (2-3) then came down and got the shot it wanted, an O'Dell jumper from just right of the key, to send the game into overtime.

The extra session was even less kind to the Cubs, who did not score until a pair of Russell free throws with 54 seconds left. By that time, North Decatur had built a five-point lead as the

Chargers pulled away down the stretch for the win.

Russell continued his terrific freshman campaign with a career-high 26 points to lead all scorers, going 8-of-13 on 3-point attempts, while Barnes had 12 points and seven assists and junior Gabe Fife had 13 points. But the Cubs shot just 37% from the floor, turned the ball over 14 times and, perhaps most damaging, gave up 16 offensive rebounds to North Decatur while getting out-rebounded 46-33 overall.

"We're inexperienced and we're a little small inside, but it's gonna take technique and boxing out and actually going to get the ball," Gibson said.

O'Dell scored 17 points, Fields had 12 and Owen Rennecamp had 10 for North Decatur, which shot 41% from the floor with 10 turnovers.

Madison will try once again to get into the win column when it travels to Austin on Saturday for the Cubs' final game before Christmas. Madison will then host the annual Jefferson County Invitational Tournament on Dec. 29-30.



David Campbell

Madison's Gabe Fife (12) shoots over North Decatur's Wyatt Reisman (5) during Tuesday's game at North Decatur.

Vaughn breaks Shawe record; Southwestern's girls post 7 wins

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn broke his own school record in the 100-yard butterfly while scoring two wins in a quad swim meet at Southwestern on Tuesday.

Vaughn won the fly in 58.53 to break his own record of 59.80. He also won the 200 freestyle in 1:54.66.

Southwestern's girls swim team also had an impressive night with seven individual wins, including four from junior Natalee Crawford.

"We had four best times tonight, with Molly Bruce having a great meet," Southwestern coach Shelly Anderson said. "Brady Bowman and



Matthew Vaughn

Shane Hardy also had best times tonight."

Natalee Crawford won the 200 freestyle in 2:12.46 and the 100 backstroke in 1:02.27 and then teamed with cousins Riley Crawford and Haylee Crawford and Adalei Watson to win the 200 medley relay in 2:16.81 and with Riley, Haylee and Alexis Dean-Wells to win the 400 freestyle relay in 4:25.74.

Watson also won the 200 individual medley in 3:19.61, Riley Crawford won the 50 freestyle in 29.80 and Haylee Crawford won the 100 freestyle in 1:05.48.

Other finishes for the Southwestern

girls were: Riley Crawford, second, 100 fly, 1:26.41; Dean-Wells, second, 500 free, 7:16.28 and third, 200 free, 2:44.18; Haylee Crawford, third, 100 breast, 1:35.81; Watson, fourth, 100 breast, 1:40.46; and Molly Bruce, fifth, 100 free, 1:31.43 and seventh, 50 free, 39.06.

Southwestern's Brady Bowman was third in the boys 100 breaststroke in 1:26.09 and fourth in the 50 freestyle in 29.60 while Shane Hardy was fourth in the 100 freestyle in 1:07.37 and fourth in the 500 freestyle in 1:19.62.

Southwestern hosted Madison and Shawe on Thursday and competes in the Floyd Central Invitational on Saturday in its final meet until January.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, Dec. 19 BASKETBALL Carroll Co. girls, Rocky Top Sports Classic, TBA Shawe boys at Crothersville, 7:30 p.m. Southwestern boys host Jac-Cen-Del, 7:30 p.m. Switzerland Co. boys host East Central, 7:30 p.m. Trimble Co. boys host Gallatin Co., 7:30 p.m.	Invite, 10 a.m. Shawe, Southwestern at Floyd Central, 11 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20 BASKETBALL Carroll Co. girls, Rocky Top Sports Classic, TBA Switzerland Co. girls host Austin, 12:30 p.m. Hanover women vs. Olivet, Trine Classic, 3 p.m. Trimble Co. girls at Newport Central Catholic, 5 p.m. Carroll Co. boys hosts Robertson Co., Carroll Co. Classic, 6:30 p.m. Madison boys at Austin, 7:30 p.m. Southwestern boys at Clarksville, 7:30 p.m. Switzerland Co. boys at Providence, 7:30 p.m. SWIMMING Switzerland Co. hosts Switzerland	WRESTLING Madison, Switzerland Co. girls, Lady Cub Classic at Madison, 9 a.m. Switzerland Co. boys at Columbus East, 9 a.m. Madison, Southwestern boys at East Central, 9:30 a.m.
	Sunday, Dec. 21 BASKETBALL Hanover women vs. Trine, Trine Classic, 3 p.m.
	Monday, Dec. 22 BASKETBALL Carroll Co. boys hosts Williamstown, Carroll Co. Classic, 6:30 p.m. Trimble Co. boys host Anderson Co., 7:30 p.m.
	Tuesday, Dec. 23 BASKETBALL Carroll Co. boys hosts Francis Parker, Carroll Co. Classic, 6:30 p.m. Switzerland Co. boys at Brown Co., 6:30 p.m.

Trimble, Carroll split inaugural 'Christmas Clash'

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Trimble County and Carroll County each claimed wins in the inaugural “Christmas Clash” basketball doubleheader at Trimble County on Tuesday.

Trimble's girls opened the night with a 65-45 win but Carroll's boys then turned the tables for a 72-55 win in the second game.

The two rivals plan on playing the two games, complete with traveling trophies, closer to Christmas in coming years with an eye toward making the game an event like the annual Turkey Shootout, the Thanksgiving Eve doubleheader between Madison and Southwestern.

Trimble County (4-1, 2-0 district) opened the girls game with a 14-8 lead after the first quarter then led 26-12 at halftime and 44-25 after three quarters en route to the 22-point win.

Ainslie Stark scored 18 points to lead Trimble while Mariah Rumsey added 16 and Kendra



Trimble County's girls basketball team poses with the Christmas Clash trophy after knocking off Carroll County on Tuesday.

Mahoney scored 12. Eighth-grader Mya Hall led Carroll County (3-3, 0-3 district) with 18 points and senior Josie Dale scored 13.

Carroll County (2-3, 1-2 district) pulled away in the fourth quarter to win the boys game. The Panthers led only

12-9 after the first quarter and 28-21 at halftime but were on top 48-35 after three quarters en route to the win.

Rylan Kinman had 26 points to lead Carroll, Jordan Raisor had 18, Hunter Dalton scored 11 and Matthew Biggin had 10. Freshman Drake Pennix

scored a career-high 34 points to lead Trimble (1-5, 0-2 district).

Trimble County's girls traveled to Gallatin County on Thursday and head to Newport Central Catholic on Saturday. The Raiders then compete in the 4 Banks Classic at Garrard County on Dec. 29-31.



Carroll County's boys basketball team poses with the Christmas Clash trophy after knocking off Trimble County on Tuesday.

Trimble County's boys host Gallatin County on Friday and host Anderson County on Monday.

Carroll County's girls compete in the Rocky Top Sports World Classic in Chattanooga, Tennessee, this weekend. The Panthers faced



Shawe's Cavaan Hambrick (11) drives on South Ripley's Bryson Sipples during Wednesday's game at Shawe.

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP: No. 2 South Ripley takes control early to beat Shawe 78-29

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Shawe boys basketball put up a fight early but the Hilltoppers couldn't hold back Class 2A No. 2 South Ripley, which rolled to a 78-29 win Wednesday in Madison.

Shawe led 8-5 early but South Ripley (3-1) answered with a 16-3 run to take a 21-11 lead after one quarter and never looked back.

Loren Stiver had 13 points for Shawe and Cavaan Hambrick scored 12 for Shawe.

Shawe, now 2-5 overall and 0-3 Ohio River Valley Conference, travels to Crothersville on Friday and hosts the

Rumble on the River Tournament on Dec. 26-27.

REBELS UPSET NO. 10 EASTERN

Southwestern girls basketball scored a 37-34 win over Class 2A No. 10 Eastern (Pekin) at home on Tuesday.

Olivia Simpson had a double-double of 10 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Rebels. Mikayla Nussbaum scored 10 points with six rebounds, Rorie Scroggins had six points and Savannah Nussbaum had two points and nine rebounds.

Southwestern, now 7-4 on the season, hosted Rock Creek on Thursday and plays in the Hauser Tournament starting

on Dec. 26.

LADY CUBS SUFFER 1ST LOSS

Class 3A No. 8 Madison suffered its first loss of the season, 46-34, at Floyd Central in girls basketball Tuesday.

Juliana Davis scored 18 points and had seven steals and five rebounds to lead Madison. Addison Roark had six points and Kenzie Smith added four points.

Madison, now 7-1 on the season, hosted Class 3A No. 7 Jennings County on Thursday and competes in the Donna Cheatham Classic at Scottsburg on Dec. 29.

COURIERAREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

— Hanover College sophomore Brian Wall has been named the NCAA Division III Football All America Second Team.

Wall, a defensive back, from Sellerburg and out of Our Lady of Providence High School, posted 45 solo tackles, 30 assists, four tackles for loss, two interceptions and one fumble recovery this season.

— Southwestern's Savannah Nussbaum and Shawe's Cavaan Hambrick and Matthew Vaughn have been named Ohio River Valley Conference players of the week.

Nussbaum picked up the award in girls basketball after posting 33 points, 19 rebounds, 16 steals and seven assists in two games for the Rebels last week.

Hambrick won the award in boys basketball with a school-record nine 3-pointers and a career-high 34 points against Christian Academy of Madison.

Vaughn won the award in boys swimming with four wins on the week.

— Madison junior varsity boys basketball defeated North Decatur 54-43 on the road on Tuesday.

Michael Purvis had 16 points for the Cubs and Brody Copeland had 14.

Madison travels to Austin on Saturday.

— Shawe junior varsity boys basketball lost 55-9 at home to South Ripley on Wednesday.

Cruz Barron had four points for the Hilltoppers.

Shawe travels to Crothersville on Friday.

HANOVER ROUNDUP: Panther women break losing skid with win over Anderson

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover College women's basketball halted a two-game losing streak with a 69-63 win at Anderson on Wednesday.

The Panthers found themselves trailing 35-30 at the half but outscored Anderson 21-9 in the third quarter to take the lead and then held on for the win.

Alexis Wines had 21 points and eight rebounds to lead Hanover while Emerson Vican had a double-double of 16 points and 10 rebounds. Lily Ernestes added nine points and six rebounds and Kaitlyn Lorenzi had seven points and 11 rebounds.

Hanover, now 6-3 overall and 2-2 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, competes in the Trine Classic this weekend. The Panthers will take on Olivet on Saturday and play Trine on Sunday. Hanover then hosts Bluffton on Saturday, Jan. 3.

HANOVER MEN ROLL TO WIN

Hanover men's basketball picked up an 83-69 win over Anderson at home on Wednesday for the Panthers' third-straight victory.

C.J. Walls had 22 points, nine rebounds and six assists, Sheldon Gatlin had 24 points and seven rebounds, and Malachi McNair had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Hanover, now 6-3 overall and 3-1 HCAC, competes in the Wooster Tournament Dec. 29-30.

Switzerland wrestlers fall to Milan

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Switzerland County boys wrestling suffered a 43-26 loss at home to Milan on senior night.

The Pacers picked up five wins on the night. Leonard Oatman (120 pounds) won by decision, Aillan Hartley (126) won by

Kentucky coach Stein hires Bateman as defensive coordinator

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky coach Will Stein has hired Jay Bateman from Texas A&M as his first defensive coordinator with the Wildcats.

Bateman has the same job with Texas A&M with the Aggies seeded seventh and hosting No. 10 Miami on Saturday in the College Football Playoffs.

“His ability to develop players, create disruptive defenses, and consistently compete at a high level has stood out everywhere he’s been,” Stein said Wednesday. “Jay brings energy, experience, and a clear vision for how we want to play defense, and we’re excited to welcome him to Kentucky.”

Bateman's defense helped Texas A&M go 11-1 and was led by the Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year Cashius Howell who had a league-high 11 1/2 sacks. Bateman said he remembers coaching with Florida on a road trip to



Kentucky's new head football coach Will Stein speaks to the media and supporters after his introduction during an NCAA college football news conference, Wednesday, Dec. 3, in Lexington, Ky.

Kentucky in 2023 when the Wildcats beat the Gators.

“With Will Stein being one of the brightest young stars in the profession, it was a major reason I would leave Texas A&M,” Bateman said. “I’m excited to work with one of

the sharpest head coaches in the country.”

Bateman was inside linebackers coach at Florida in 2022 and 2023 and was co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach at North Carolina from 2019 through 2021. He

at Elon from 2006-2010 and coached at Lehigh in 2005 and Richmond in 2004. He was head coach at Siena from 2000 through 2003 after being defensive coordinator in 1999.

Bateman started coaching at Benedictine High in Richmond, Virginia, in 1995 before moving to college as a graduate assistant at Hampden-Sydney in 1997.

Turning 65?

You have questions, we have answers!

With 70 years experience in helping people make the right choices concerning medicare coverage.

Call today to find out how! 812-273-1187

KASPER INSURANCE
AND RETIREMENT SERVICES
YOUR FRIENDLY AGENTS

220 Clifty Drive,
Suite C, Madison, IN

No playoffs, but Bengals eye strong finish

BY CHARLIE GOLDSMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI—For the first time since 2020, the Cincinnati Bengals are playing out the string in late December and are eliminated from postseason contention with multiple games left to play.

The Bengals' 4-10 record is a frustrating reality for a team that entered the year with playoff ambitions.

"It comes down to being able to win when we need to and showing up in these big games and these big moments," captain and left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. said. "I've been a part of those special teams. A lot of guys in this locker room were a part of it here in 2021 and 2022 being able to push to that point. It's a lot of things that it's going to take for us to get back in that position."

While the Bengals are eliminated, coach Zac Taylor said that quarterback Joe Burrow will start the remaining games with an eye on competing.

Taylor said that there's a lot that he's hoping to get out of the Bengals' final three games, beginning Sunday in Miami. Burrow views the stretch run similarly.

"Any time you get the opportunity to strap up the pads and put the cleats on and go in front of the world and prove your worth through all the hard



Stephanie Scarbrough

Cincinnati Bengals head coach Zac Taylor speaks during a news conference after an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Friday, Nov. 28, in Baltimore.

work that you've put in, prove that you're improving week to week, that's what we're all trying to do," Burrow said. "We're trying to get better and better ourselves. We have three opportunities to do that."

Down the stretch, Burrow and the offense are looking to bounce back from last week's shutout loss against the Baltimore Ravens. Also, there's an opportunity to see continued progress from the young defense.

The Bengals have been relying on a lot of young pieces, including defensive end Myles Murphy, defensive tackle Kris Jenkins Jr., linebackers Demetrius Knight Jr. and Barrett Carter, safety Jordan Battle and cornerbacks DJ Turner and Dax Hill. While the Bengals' defense was on pace for a historically bad season

a month ago, the unit has rebounded.

"There are some things they're improving on that we're going to build off of," Taylor said. "Anyone watching the game can see that's an improvement being made, and there are a lot of young players participating in that."

Defensive coordinator Al Golden said that encouraging signs include the strong performance from the Bengals' defense since the bye week in early November on third downs and in the red zone. He said that Murphy, Knight, Carter Turner and Battle have all made meaningful strides over the last few weeks, and Golden's growing confidence in the young defense has helped him build game plans with more advanced concepts.

Still, a defense that ranks

last in the NFL in points allowed and yards allowed this season needs to get much better in the big picture.

"You get callous to (criticism)," Golden said. "You get to a point where you don't take it personal. You try to be professional. I get it. Third and 7, they scored a touchdown. I would be critical, too. And if I was a fan, I'd be angry, too."

The Bengals face a vulnerable Miami Dolphins team that also has a losing record. After benching quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Dolphins will be giving rookie seventh-round pick Quinn Ewers his first NFL start on Sunday.

"We've got three weeks," Bengals captain and center Ted Karras said. "Everyone else will be looking to 2026. We've got a month left of football. (I want to see) focus, energy and toughness. That's all I think about. I pray for that every day. We've got to finish."

Colts keep Rivers starting even as Richardson returns

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts cleared quarterback Anthony Richardson to start practicing on Thursday, but Philip Rivers will remain the starter for Monday night's crucial matchup against the San Francisco 49ers.

The move opens the door for Richardson to return from injured reserve before the end of this season, but coach Shane Steichen said Thursday that Richardson would not be activated this week.

Indy brought the 44-year-old Rivers out of retirement last week after starting

quarterback Daniel Jones suffered a season-ending torn Achilles tendon and backup Riley Leonard, a rookie, hurt his right knee in a loss to Jacksonville. Despite taking his first snaps in almost five years last week at Seattle, Rivers nearly led the Colts to a victory. Indy lost 18-16.

Richardson has been out since mid-October after fracturing an orbital bone near his eye during a freak accident while stretching with a band in the locker room during pregame warmups.



LEGAL NOTICE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in Cause No. 39C01-2505-MF-000416 wherein U.S. Bank National Association was Plaintiff, and Aaron R. Ehlers, was Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 22nd day of January, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 1150 JA Berry Lane, Madison, IN 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana.

Lot Number One (1) and four and one-half (4 1/2) feet off the west side of Lot Number Two (2) in Mouser Addition to the Town of North Madison, now City of Madison, Indiana. See Plat Book 1, Page 3A, (now New Plat Book 2, Page 3) in the Office of the Recorder of Jefferson County, Indiana.

More commonly known as: 224 Mouser St, Madison, IN 47250
Parcel No. : 39-08-27-111-083.000-007

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

Alan W. McEwan
24051-49
Doyle & Foutty, P.C.
41 E Washington Street
Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ben Flint
Sheriff of Jefferson County

Madison Township
224 Mouser St, Madison, IN 47250
Street Address

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein

NOTICE
DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR



LEGAL NOTICE

Republican Township Trustee Office
1140 N. Thompson Road
Madison, IN 47250

Date: 12/16/2025

To:
Township Board Members
Kent Fire Company
Republican Township Residents

Location: Kent Fire Department
Re: January 2026 Township Meeting Dates

Dear Board Members, Representatives of Kent Fire Company and Republican Township Residents

Please be advised of the following scheduled meetings for the Republican Township Trustee Office in January 2026. These meetings are being held in accordance with Indiana Code and statutory requirements governing township operations.

Tuesday, January 6, 6:30PM 2026
Annual Meeting of the Township Board
This meeting will be held for the purpose of organizing the Township Board by electing one (1) member to serve as Chairman and one (1) member to serve as Secretary for the 2026 calendar year.
This meeting is scheduled as required on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January pursuant to **IC 36-6-6-7**.

Monday, January 19, 6:30PM 2026
Annual Meeting of the Township Board of Finance
The Township Board will meet to organize as the Township Board of Finance by electing one (1) member to serve as President and one (1) member to serve as Secretary, each for a one-year term.

During this meeting, the Investment Officer will present a written report summarizing the township's investments for the previous calendar year. The report will include the names of all financial institutions, government agencies, instrumentalities, or other entities with which township funds were invested.

The Local Board of Finance will
1. Review the investment report; and
2. Review the township's overall investment policy.

This meeting will also serve as the **annual meeting of the Township Board for the purpose of receiving, auditing, and approving the Annual Report**, in compliance with **IC 5-13-7-6 and IC 5-13-7-7**.
This meeting will be held after the first Monday in January and on or before the last day of January, as required by law.

Public Meeting Notice
All meetings are open to the public unless an Executive Session is properly called in accordance with Indiana law. Meetings will be recorded as required under Indiana law.

Please ensure attendance or appropriate representation at these meetings. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Republican Township Trustee Office.

Respectfully,

Angie Sims
Republican Township Trustee
Republican Township Trustee Office
1140 N. Thompson Road
Madison, IN 47250
812-701-3273
republicantownshiptrustee@icloud.com



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received for a public CMA project under IC 5-32:
By: CORE Construction, 9001 Wesleyan Road Suite #110, Indianapolis, IN 46268 (**CMA**)
On behalf of:
Madison Consolidated Schools
Project: E.O. Muncie Demolition
Sealed bids will be received up to **11:00 am (EDT) on January 8, 2026**.
Public Bid Opening will be held on **January 8, 2026, at 11:00 am (EDT)** at the following location.

Madison Consolidated Schools
2421 Wilson Ave, Madison, IN 47250

Bidders may request the Pre-Qualification Form and the Bid Documents electronically by emailing such requests to ryanalbright@coreconstruction.com.
Bid Security in the amount of five (5) % of the amount of the Bid, must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
Dated the 8th day of December 2025



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF Jefferson)

IN THE Jefferson CIRCUIT COURT
SS: CAUSE NO. 39C01-2512-M1-1184

IN RE THE NAME)
CHANGE OF)
)

Ellie Ison
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Ellie Ison , whose mailing address is 107 North Madison Ave. Hanover, IN 47243 in the Jefferson County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Ellie Ison has filed petition in the Jefferson Circuit Court requesting that my name be changed to Ellie Elizabeth Jones. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026 @ 10:30 a.m.

/s/Ellie Ison
Petitioner

12/08/25
Date

/s/ Tabatha Eblen
Clerk

SEAL



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Switzerland Circuit Court of Switzerland County, Indiana, in Cause No. 78C01-2501-MF-000033, wherein Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC was Plaintiff, and Matthew W. Johnston, Jayme E. Johnston, United States of America, acting through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 13th day of January, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 405 Liberty Street, Vevay, IN 47043, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Switzerland County, Indiana. York Township: A part of Section 20, Township 2 North, Range 1 West, York Township, Switzerland County, Indiana, described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of Section 20, Township 2 North, Range 1 West; thence north 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west 1353.51 feet; thence south 88 degrees 49 minutes 40 seconds west 1797.55 feet; thence north 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds east 675.52 feet; thence north 60 degrees 56 minutes 23 seconds east 42.32 feet; thence north 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds east 719.01 feet to a rebar set, the point of beginning; thence continuing north 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds east 931.89 feet to a nail set in the centerline of Hominy Ridge Road; thence along the centerline of Hominy Ridge Road the following four courses: north 89 degrees 53 minutes 11 seconds east 152.79 feet to a nail set; south 83 degrees 36 minutes 23 seconds east 50.60 feet to a nail set; south 72 degrees 44 minutes 06 seconds east 49.85 feet to a nail set; south 55 degrees 31 minutes 37 seconds east 65.09 feet to a nail set; thence south 19 degrees 10 minutes 46 seconds west 926.34 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.3905 acres. More commonly known as 9599 Hominy Ridge Rd, Florence, IN 47020-9665 Parcel No. 78-10-20-900-012.015-008 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. /s/ Matthew S. Love **MATTHEW S. LOVE**, Plaintiff Attorney Attorney # 18762-29 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727 Brian Morton, Sheriff York Township The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. **SERVICE DIRECTED TO:** Matthew W. Johnston PO Box 237 Patriot, IN 47038-0237 Service Type: Serve By Certified Mail Jayme E. Johnston 9599 Hominy Ridge Rd Florence, IN 47020-9665 Service Type: Serve By Sheriff NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C., IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF SWITZERLAND)
IN THE SWITZERLAND CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
78C01-2509-JT-000004
78C01-2509-JT-000005
78C01-2509-JT-000006
IN THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP:
ZH - DOB 3/6/2018
WH - DOB 6/30/2020 MH - DOB 12/15/2022
AND
CHYNA HICKMAN (BIOLOGICAL MOTHER)
STEVEN HICKMAN (BIOLOGICAL FATHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING

TO: Steven Hickman
Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed a Petition for Involuntary Termination of your Parental Rights, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court. **YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED** to appear before the Judge of the Switzerland Circuit Court, 212 West Main Street, Vevay, IN 47043 - 812-427-3410 for a(n) Termination Hearing on 2/11/2026 at 9:00 AM and to answer the Petition for Termination of your Parental Rights of said children.

You are further notified that if the allegations in said petition are true, and/or if you fail to appear at the hearing, the Juvenile Court may terminate your parent-child relationship; and if the Court terminates your parent-child relationship you will lose all parental rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties and obligations including any rights to custody, control, visitation, or support in said children; and if the Court terminates your parent-child relationship, it will be permanently terminated, and thereafter you may not contest an adoption or other placement of said children.

You are entitled to representation by an attorney, provided by the State if applicable, throughout these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship. If you have been appointed an attorney in the Child in Need of Services action involving the above-named child(ren), that attorney may not be automatically appointed to represent you in these proceedings. You must appear at the hearing currently scheduled in this matter and request that the Court appoint an attorney to represent you in these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, adjudication on said petition and termination of your parental rights may be entered against you, in your absence, without further notice.

Clerk

Michelle Hicks, #22997-53
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
ESTATE NUMBER 39C01-2512-EU-000092
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE)
OF DAVID WILLIAM ORRILL, DECEASED.)

William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE,
508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID WILLIAM ORRILL, DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that David Edward Orrill was, on the 4th day of December, 2025, appointed personal representative of the estate of David William Orrill, deceased, who died on the 11th day of October, 2025.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 4th day of December, 2025.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
ESTATE NUMBER 39C01-2512-EU-000091

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE)
OF BONNIE MAY, DECEASED.

William Joseph Jenner, JENNER, PATTISON & SHARPE,
508 E. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250; (812) 265-5132

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BONNIE MAY, DECEASED.
Notice is hereby given that Carroll J. May, Mary L. May, and Jerry N. May were, on the 4th day of December, 2025, appointed personal representatives of the estate of Bonnie May, deceased, who died on the 19th day of October, 2025.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 4th day of December, 2025.

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, IN



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
ESTATE NUMBER 39C01-2511-ES-000083
IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERVISED ESTATE)
OF SHEILA K. BROOKS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP
You are hereby notified that a Petition to Determine Heirship concerning the Estate of Sheila K. Brooks, deceased, has been filed in the Jefferson Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Indiana. A hearing on said Petition will be held on:
Date: February 3, 2026
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Jefferson Circuit Court
The purpose of this proceeding is to determine the heirs of the decedent in accordance with Indiana Code § 29-1-6-6. All persons claiming to be an heir of the decedent must appear at the hearing or file written objections with the Court prior to the hearing. Failure to appear or respond may result in the Court determining heirship without further notice. If the names or whereabouts of any potential heirs are unknown, notice is also given by publication as required by law.
Date: December 1, 2025

Tabatha Eblen
Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court

CANIDA

FROM PAGE B1

Lilly’s skill that impresses her, it’s how hard she works and that she leads by example.

“When they’re at the pool at 5 a.m., Lilly is the one telling everyone to get ready and work hard. She’s there getting everyone ready and is being

a leader to everyone,” Johnson said. “Just her skill alone is something that I think any coach would want, but to me, I wish everyone could have her work ethic and her leadership skills. I have no worries about her at Butler. I think she’s going to do great.”

Canida, who plans on majoring in business with an eye toward becoming a real estate lawyer, now

focuses on the rest of her senior year, where she has huge goals not just for herself, but for the team.

“Personally, I would love to make the finals at state, that would be a great way to cap off my time at Madison,” Canida said. “I want a sectional championship for the team though. I believe we have the girls to do it.

We have to put in the work, and set our minds for it. I really think we can win. That would be incredible for the team and the program.”



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in cause No. 39D01-2507-MF-000690, wherein NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing was Plaintiff, and Elden Theodore Jenkins was the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in the said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 22nd day of January, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. local time of said day, at 1150 JA Berry Ln, Madison, IN 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana:

THE EAST HALF OF LOT NO. 12 AND 55 FEET OFF THE WEST SIDE OF LOT NO. 13 IN ROSE MAUR ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF HANOVER. SEE PLAT BOOK NO. 1, PAGE 79, IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA.

More Commonly known as: 233 Rose Maur Street, Hanover, Indiana 47243 Property ID Number: 39-14-12-442-015.000-003 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

/s/ Andrew L. Kraemer
Andrew L. Kraemer, Plaintiff Attorney
Attorney No. 14872-71
Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
500 West Lincoln Highway, Suite J
Merrillville, IN 46410
312-541-9710

Ben Flint
Sheriff of Jefferson County, Indiana
Hanover Township
Township of Property Location
233 Rose Maur Street
Hanover, Indiana 47243
Street Address

Sheriff's File Number
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Southwestern Jefferson County Consolidated School Corporation
Notice of Proposed Additional Appropriations

Notice is hereby given that the Southwestern Jefferson County Consolidated School Corporation Board of School Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. EST in the Board Room located at 273 South Main Cross Street; Hanover, IN. to consider an additional appropriation of \$12,800,796 for the Education Fund and \$4,026,091 for the Operations Fund for the 2026 Budget.

The proposed additional appropriations are necessary to fund the 2026 Budget. After Board approval this will be sent to the Department of Local Government and Finance for final approval of the 2026 Budget.

All interested taxpayers are invited to attend the Public Hearing and express their views on the proposed additional appropriations.

Laura Boldery
Chief Financial Officer
Southwestern Jefferson County Consolidated School Corporation
239 South Main Cross Street
Hanover, IN 47243



LEGAL NOTICE

The following will be sold for charges:
997 JENNY LYNN LN
CANAAN on 1/8/2026 @ 12:00PM

1989 OLDSMOBILE
2G3AJ51N2K2406257
\$2,405.50

INDIANA LAND COMPANY OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE
(812) 923-9823 & (812) 246-1500
www.indianalandcompany.com

LEXINGTON 15 ACRES
OPEN/WOODS BIG CREEK UTILS AT ROAD \$149,900
SALEM 4 1/2 ACRES
OPEN/WOODS CREEK DRIVEWAY SEPTIC APPROVED \$62,900
MARYSVILLE 10 1/2 ACRES
OPEN/WOODS SETUP FOR HOME GARAGE \$109,900
LEXINGTON 2+ ACRES
OPEN FENCED SEPTIC APPROVED UTILS AT ROAD \$45,900
SCOTTSBURG 7 1/2 ACRES
OPEN/WOODS CREEK & DRIVEWAY \$97,900
LEXINGTON 2 1/2 ACRES
ALL WOODS HWY 356 UTILS AT THE ROAD \$49,900
BLOCHER 5 1/2 ACRES
WOODS DRIVEWAY SEPTIC APPROVED JEFF. CO. \$79,900
LEXINGTON 4 1/2 ACRES
WOODED ROLLING PRIVATE HORNER ROAD \$51,900
NABB 2+ ACRES
OPEN/FLAT WITH TREES SEPTIC APPROVED UTILS AT RD \$39,900
LITTLE YORK 3+ ACRES
WOODED PRIVATE SEPTIC APPROVED UTILS ROAD \$51,900

EMPLOYMENT

Hanover College is seeking applications for a Maintenance position. Primary duties include general maintenance, housekeeping and grounds. Responsible for repairs, maintenance projects and general maintenance work as assigned.

Hanover College is an equal opportunity employment committed to providing a welcoming college environment. We encourage all who are interested to apply at <https://www.hanover.edu/about/employment/>.

MADISON COURIER

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Publication Date	Deadline
Tuesday	Thursday 4 PM
Friday	Tuesday 4 PM

Contact Customer Service at
(812) 265-3641 • classifieds@madisoncourier.com
Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM
*Holidays advance deadlines by 24 hours.



LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

Southeastern Indiana Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("SIRTC") provides voice telephony service throughout its co-operative designated serving area, including minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge; access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in SIRTC's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. Basic services monthly rates: (\$17.45)* single party residential line; (\$15.25-\$18.60)* multi and single party business lines; (\$6.50- \$9.20) single and multi-party federal subscriber line charge. *The rates do not include charges for long distance, operator services, directory assistance, 911 emergency services, or other taxes, fees and surcharges. Discounts are available to low-income customers who qualify for Lifeline, a government assistance program that is non-transferable and limited to one discount per household. For more information contact SIRTC at 1-888-200-8077, 14005 U.S. 50, P.O. Box 7, Dillsboro, IN 47018.

C

PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

CLASSIFIED ADS

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN INDIANA

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MADISON- CBJ Properties One bedroom apartments on Madison Hilltop. Clean and quality maintained. Starting at \$640/mo. plus electric. Laundry facilities available. References, background check and deposit required. 12-month lease only. No smoking. Call (812)265-6050 for an app.

CLOSETS BULGING?
Sell Your Stuff in the Classifieds!

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MADISON- CHATEAU MANOR - Quiet hilltop neighborhood with sidewalks and shade trees at corner of Cragmont and Mouser. Spacious 2BR Apartments with renovated kitchen and bathroom, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookup, Abundant closet space and deck. Rent \$750 - \$875. Deposit \$650. References required. Visit chateaumanorapts.com or Call (812)273-3375

Leave forests and parks clean. Forest Service, U.S.D.A.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Greencastle, Indiana One Bedroom Apartment \$600 Rent \$600 Deposit Tenant Pays Electric 765-720-7904

MADISON- 201 Hooton Blvd – Madison Hilltop – Large 2 Bed 1 Bath apt, remodeled. Available now. \$900/mo, \$\$900 deposit, pet policy. Call for application. (812) 599-6570.

Fill Your Purse Through the Classifieds

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Madison- MADISON HEIGHTS Quiet, park-like setting. Fast and friendly maintenance. Hilltop complex, centrally located behind Big Lots. Apartments and townhomes: \$875-1200/mo. To apply, visit dogwoodmanagement.com or call (812) 273-5057.

Brazil- Newly renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home for rent at 517 E Mechanic St in Brazil. \$1250-1500. Call (765)548-4075 or (812)236-9735. Available immediately.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MADISON- SUGGETT SCHMIDT PROPERTIES
Quality rentals for over 30 years. Over 90 exceptionally clean well maintained conveniently located properties in Madison Very reasonably priced homes, duplexes, townhouses and apartments ranging from \$800 to \$1300 per month. (812)265-2020 or suggetttschmidtproperties.com. Click contact us to download/fill out application.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MADISON - The Presidential Estates & Windridge Apartments. Now accepting applications for 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom apartments. Applications are taken Mon., Wed. & Fri. from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rent based on income. Apply at Rental Office, located at 2855 Windridge Dr. Equal Housing Opportunity Call (812)273-3363 T.D.D.#1-800-743-3333

Give a Gift Subscription of YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER



- ✓ LOCAL News
- ✓ Shopping
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Classifieds
- ✓ Community

In Print & Online

THE GIFT THAT GIVES All Year!



Help people affected by disasters big and small.

DONATE NOW

redcross.org



ADOPT A SHELTER ANIMAL TODAY!



Schwarber welcomes baby amid new Phillies deal

BY RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

ORLANDO, Fla. — For Kyle Schwarber, his new contracts and newborns seem to go together.

Hours after Schwarber struck a \$79 million, four-year deal to join the Phillies in March 2022, his wife, Paige, gave birth to the couple’s first child, Kade.

This week, Schwarber reached a \$150 million, five-year deal to remain with the Phillies, just before the expected birth of a daughter.

“I was able to rush up to Philly yesterday and to get all the physicals and all that done with to get back here to Ohio to make sure that I’m not going to get beat up or anything like that if I miss my child being born,” Schwarber said during a Zoom news conference Wednesday.

“This is a little reminiscence of four years ago to where we agreed to the deal but she actually went into labor that night. Here we’re getting close. It could happen any day, but I’m happy that they were able to accommodate that, get me up there, get me back, so now I will be here, make sure whenever our little girl comes into the world that I will be here.”

Their daughter will be their first following a pair of sons.

Schwarber’s deal calls for a \$15 million signing bonus, half payable on March 15 and the remainder on Oct. 15, and salaries of \$15 million next season and \$30 million in each of the final four years. He also gets a hotel suite on road trips.

Schwarber, who turns 33 in March, set career bests this year with a National

League-leading 56 homers and a major league-high 132 RBIs along with a .240 batting average and .928 OPS. He scored a career-high 111 runs as he led the club to its second straight NL East title. His 23 homers against left-handed pitching set a major league record for a lefty batter.

“I don’t want to just be a quote-unquote ‘one-hit wonder,’ right?” Schwarber said. “I want to play this game for a long time and I want to continue to still be great and I want to continue to help the Phillies try to win a World Series and multiple World Series throughout my time here.”

Schwarber met with his home-state Cincinnati Reds during the free-agent process.

“I was impressed,” he said. “Me and Paige went down to Cincinnati and we were able to meet, sit down and have the conversation with them and hear them out. And I would say that they were not pulling chains and that they were wanting to try to get me to Cincinnati.”

Phillies president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski made keeping Schwarber a priority.

“He’s been a difference-maker for us since the day he got here to kind of help change the culture,” Dombrowski said. “We didn’t have anybody else in our clubhouse when I came on board that had won a world championship.”

Schwarber was selected by the Cubs with the fourth pick in the 2014 amateur draft and two years later returned in the World Series from a torn left ACL and helped Chicago win its first title since 1908.

He was demoted to the minors for two weeks in 2017 and was let go after hitting .181 in 2020. He signed a \$10 million, one-year deal with Washington.

“At the top of the mountain, you win a World Series, then you’re hitting 170. You’re in Triple-A the year after. 2020, non-tendered and then kind of able to get back and (be) the player that you know that you could be. And then you come to the four years in Philadelphia and you really feel like that you’ve hit your stride and you’ve got the identity of who I wanted to be in the big leagues, right? And there’s still things to improve on.”

On June 25, he hit a pair of two-run homers in a 12-5 victory at the New York Yankees on Friday night. The first drive, his 319th career homer, topped Mark McGwire for most home runs among a player’s first 1,000 hits.

His milestone hit was grabbed by a Phillies fan attending with his friends in Yankee Stadium’s right-center field seats. He met the trio after the game, gave an autographed ball to each and exchanged hugs. When he went to get a third ball to autograph, one of the three said he just wanted Schwarber to re-sign with the Phillies.

“Resonating with an organization and resonating with a fan base is a huge part of why you do it,” he said. “You want people, you want young kids, you want anyone at a game and at the end of the day look up and you want ’em to be wearing your jersey or look at their mom and dad and say, ‘Hey, I want to be like Kyle.’”

Pagán happy to return to Reds on \$20M deal

BY JOE REEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emilio Pagán wanted to remain with the Cincinnati Reds, even as he was exploring his options in free agency.

However, Pagán will be back with the club as its closer after finalizing a \$20 million, two-year contract on Thursday. He has the right to opt out after the 2026 season.

“It was a pretty easy choice to come back. I like everything that we’ve got going on here,” Pagán said. “At the end of the day, I wasn’t going to make a decision based on who was giving me the most money. I wanted to go somewhere where I felt comfortable, where I felt like I had a chance to win games and be around a special group of people, and Cincinnati checks all three of those boxes.”

Pagán gets a \$10 million salary next year and has a \$10 million player option for

2027 with no buyout. If traded, he would get a \$500,000 assignment bonus from the acquiring team.

The 34-year-old right-hander became the Reds’ closer early last season and went 2-4 with a 2.88 ERA and a career-high 32 saves in 38 chances. He ranked second in the National League in saves and tied for fifth in the majors.

Pagán said the one area where he is looking to improve is using his splitter fastball more. He felt like he established pretty good command of the pitch late last season.

Pagan is primarily a four-seam fastball pitcher with the splitter and cutter used nearly equally as his secondary pitch.

“There was times during the year where even though the results on it were good, the movement pattern on it was a little bit inconsistent. And so I finally felt like I got to a point where I know what the action on the pitch is

going to be. And if you know which way the ball’s going to move, it’s a lot easier to throw it where you want to,” he said. “The splitter has, in my opinion, changed the way that I can attack both left-handed and right-handed hitters. And so for me, it’s just diving into being more consistent with that pitch.”

Pagán, who is 28-27 with a 3.66 ERA and 65 saves in nine major league seasons with Seattle, Oakland, Tampa Bay, San Diego, Minnesota and Cincinnati, will be one of the elder statesmen of a pitching staff that has a young starting rotation. Right-hander Hunter Greene is the staff ace followed by the lefty duo of Andrew Abbott and Nick Lodolo.

Cincinnati also has plenty of momentum this offseason after reaching the postseason in Terry Francona’s first year at the helm. The Reds finished 83-79 and beat out the New York Mets for the National League’s final wild-card spot.

EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

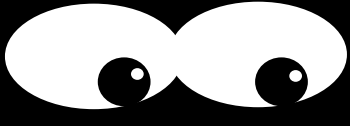
The Switzerland County Clerk’s Office is seeking applicants for:

DEPUTY CLERK/CHILD SUPPORT JOB DUTIES INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Maintains and updates Department files of individuals ordered to pay child support
 - Establishes and amends accounts, and assists with calculation of arrearages
 - Receives and receipts support payments
 - Prepares wage garnishment orders
 - Prints child support payment histories as requested
 - Processes orders and filings received from the Court
 - Monthly reconciliation for ISETS (Child Support) Trust account
 - Position is cross-trained to offset the workload of the entire office
 - Performs other duties of the Clerk’s office as assigned
-
- This position is Full Time, Non-Exempt
 - Salary Range is \$39,000 - \$43,000 annually
 - Full Job Description and Application can be found in the Clerk’s or Auditor’s Offices in the Switzerland County Courthouse or <https://www.in.gov/counties/switzerland/departments-a-e/circuit-court-clerk/>
 - Please submit completed applications with resume to: kd@switzerland.in.gov or in-person to the Circuit Court Clerk (in the Courthouse, 212 W Main Street, Vevay, IN 47043)

Applications must be received by 12:00pm, Friday, December 26, 2025

BUSINESSES & SERVICES Directory

BUILDING MATERIALS  HILLTOP SUPPLY AND HARDWOOD (859)240-4157 • Solid Hardwood Flooring starting at .99 per sqft • Pine Shipap starting at .49 per lf • Waterproof LVP • Trim, Baseboard, Stairs, and MORE • Sandpaper, Stain, and Polyurethane • 2 convenient locations • Delivery available	CONSTRUCTION POST FRAME BUILDINGS <i>Built On Your Lot!</i> 60 Years Experience Large Selection of Colors & Sizes Material packages available. Gosman, Inc. Madison, Indiana 812-265-5290 www.gosmaninc.com 24x30x8 2-9x7 garage doors 1-3' entry door \$10,500 30x50x8 2-9x7 garage doors 1-3' entry door \$17,500 40x60x10 2-9x7 garage doors 1-3' entry door \$24,500	CONSTRUCTION PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT AND YOUR FAMILY WITH QUALITY ROOF MAINTENANCE SERVICES FROM THE PROFESSIONALS. Marcus Meadows Insurance Relations Manager SANDUSKY CONSTRUCTION Make sure your roof maintenance, installation or repairs are being performed by a trusted and experienced professional. With many years of experience and a top-notch reputation in this community, we stand behind the quality and value of our work, so you don't have to worry. (502) 663-1069 gsxr100bill@yahoo.com	CONSTRUCTION PETTIT Contracting LLC <i>Roofing</i> Roofing • Siding • Windows • Insulation Decks • Remodeling Insured • Free Estimates Residential • Commercial Licensed and Fully Insured in Business since 2000 812-265-7663 Preferred Contractor 16 YEARS EXPERIENCE Pettit Group Owner/Roofing Specialists www.pettitcontracting.com joe@pettitcontracting.com
FENCING ABC Fence “A Better Choice” • Privacy • ChainLink • Masonry • Pasture • Split Rail • Brick • Ornamental • Porches & Decks (812) 701-0502	FENCING Double L Fencing High Tensile, Woven Barb & Board Fencing Free Estimates 812-599-8827 Leon King	YOUR AD HERE  MADE YOU LOOK Get your business in front of thousands of customers for as low as \$20 a week. Call Shelley at 812-265-3643 today!	LOCK SERVICE LEE’S LOCK SERVICE, INC CERTIFIED • INSURED • LOCKSMITH LEE SMITH PH. 812-274-9381  CELL 812-820-2655 600 Green Rd. • Madison, Inc 47250 leeslockserviceinc.com
PLUMBING RJ Plumbing FULLY INSURED • Sewer & Drain Cleaning • Bathroom Remodeling • Water & Sewer Line Replacement 812.599.1650	YOUR AD HERE There’s SNOW better place to advertise your services! Advertise your business twice a week in the Madison Courier for only \$20! Call Shelley today at 812-265-3643 to get started. 	ROOFING B & R ROOFING & GENERAL CONTRACTING • Decks • Porches • Garages • Vinyl Siding • Soffit • Fascia (812) 701-1705	BUILDING MATERIALS MADISON METALS We Manufacture Premium Metal Roofing and Trim • Delivery Available • Buy Factory Direct • Next Day Service • Custom Trim Available Call for Pricing Scratch & Dent – \$1.25 per linear foot 5854 N. U.S. Hwy. 421 • Madison, IN 812-273-5214 • madmetalsupply.com